

## Anger as Ridley says disqualification not in public interest

# 'Lying Fayed's' keep Harrods

## Report dismisses \$1bn wealth claim

By Graham Searjeant and Richard Ford

The Fayed brothers are to be allowed to keep Harrods, in spite of a damning official report which says they lied persistently to win approval for their £615m takeover of the House of Fraser stores group.

Mohamed and Ali Fayed lied repeatedly about their family background, their early business life and their wealth, the Department of Trade and Industry report said yesterday.

The inspectors found that the brothers were worth only a fraction of the \$1 billion that had been portrayed and that their claim to come from a well-established Egyptian family that had been wealthy for a hundred years was untrue.

But Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, told an incredulous House of Commons it would not be in the public interest to disqualify the brothers as company directors. He was jeered by both Conservative and Labour MPs as he also ruled out reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and said: "No other matters re-

quire action from me." His statement was denounced as pathetic by Labour's City spokesman Miss Marjorie Mowlam, who said: "The Commons is astonished that on an issue as important as this, where we are talking about fraud on a grand scale, you make a statement lasting less than two minutes."

Backbench MPs branded the brothers crooks and liars, saying the 752-page report had revealed an episode of "sleaze and slime" and opened a can

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of worms. But the Fayed last night denounced the accusations in the report as worthless and said the fact that no action was being taken against them exploded the inspectors' "extreme conclusions".

Sir Edward du Cann, the chairman of Lorho which lost the 1985 takeover battle for the House of Fraser and which has been campaigning against the Fayed brothers since, called for the brothers to be disqualified from the Harrods board and for the store to lose its royal warrants. "I think the Fayed should be forced to leave the country," he said.

The report - by the High Court judge Sir Henry Brooke, QC, and the accountant Mr

Hugh Aldous - said: "The Fayed brothers dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources to the Secretary of State, the Office of Fair Trading, the Press, the House of Fraser board and shareholders, and their own advisers."

"We uncovered more and more cases where the Fayed brothers were plainly telling us lies," the inspectors said. "We received evidence from the Fayed, under solemn affirmation and in written memoranda, which was false and which the Fayed knew to be false."

Mr Ridley confirmed in the Commons that it would be a criminal offence under the Perjury Act knowingly to make false statements to the inspectors; but the Attorney General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, had decided no prosecutions should be instigated.

The DPP and the Serious Fraud Office said last week that there was insufficient evidence "to afford a realistic prospect of conviction for any criminal offence".

In the Commons yesterday, Mr David Ashby, Conservative MP for Leicestershire, North West, said there was a deep frustration on the government benches "that these crooks should get away with it". Mr Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP for Chichester, called for the Fayed to lose Harrods. "Make it hurt where it does hurt and that is ownership of the company."

But Mr Ridley said the provisions in the Company Directors Disqualification Act were not meant as a punishment, but to protect the public. There are no public shareholders in the company.

The inspectors were appointed to investigate the Fayed's claims about their background because Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry at the time of the takeover, relied on assurances as to who they were and that they were paying cash for Europe's biggest store chain with their own funds.

Partly on the strength of those assurances, Mr Tebbit decided in an unusually short time not to refer their bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, thus ensuring that the Fayed gained control of Harrods and that Mr Tiny Rowland's Lorho could not.

The inspectors found no evidence to explain how the Fayed had sufficient funds, but said: "It is likely that they used their association with the Sultan of Brunei to acquire those funds."



Counter attack: Mr Mohamed Fayed slicing up a salami in the Harrods food hall yesterday.

## ● We received evidence which the Fayed knew to be false ●

The inspectors paid a great deal of attention to the Fayed's personal history because they said that the portrayal of their background in the Press had coloured public opinion in their favour.

But the inspectors decided they had lied about their everything from their age - making themselves between four and ten years younger - to their name, which should be Fayed and not, as Mr Mohamed Fayed claimed in his own case, Al-Fayed. They had claimed to come from a

wealthy, established family, but were in fact the sons of a teacher of "respectable but humble origins".

The inspectors also believed claims that Mohamed Fayed "perpetrated a very substantial deception on the authorities in Haiti" and absconded with more than \$100,000 in 1964. "This is, in our opinion, a matter which is relevant for the Secretary of State to know when he considers what action he should take following an act of deception of the British government by Mohamed

Fayed's company on a different but even grander scale." Kleinwort Benson, the City merchant bank that acted for the Fayed, and Herbert Smith, solicitors in the bid, were also criticized for taking the Fayed at face value, although the inspectors say they acted in good faith.

The inspectors said that since the Fayed bought House of Fraser, its management had been "law-abiding, proper and regular".

The Office of Fair Trading Continued on page 24, col 1



The Department of Trade and Industry inspectors presented a catalogue of "overwhelming" lies told by the Fayed brothers and after the bid for the retail chain (Angela Mackay writes).

The report said the brothers had "dishonestly misrepresented" their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources to the Secretary of State, the Office of Fair Trading, the press, the House of Fraser board and the company's shareholders and their own advisers.

The inspectors said the manner and demeanour of both Mohamed and Ali Fayed made them reluctant to believe anything they said unless it was reliably corroborated by independent evidence.

The inspectors said:

- The brothers supplied birth certificates which were false and which the Fayed knew to be false;
- That they had come from "respectable but humble origins and are the sons of teachers" and not as they said members of an old established Egyptian family who had been shipowners, landowners and industrialists for more than 100 years;
- They altered their names from Fayed to Al Fayed;
- Their claim to have had British nannies was untrue;
- The brothers did not buy the yacht Dodi - which they said had been in the family - until the 1960s;
- That the relationship with the Sultan of Brunei did not stem from their fathers being friends - they had never met - but was relatively recent;
- They rejected the brothers' claim that they left Egypt in 1962 with £20 million;
- The brothers had not had a fleet of ships in pre-Nasser times which had survived nationalization. They owned only two 1,600-ton cargo ferries and 14 vessels recently bought in Dubai;
- That they inflated the income from banking, construction, luxury hotels, oil and property businesses;
- That the £50.5 million and \$330 million deposited with Royal Bank of Scotland were not from the dissolution of a secret oil trading syndicate and that the money was not beneficially owned by them;
- They misled the regulatory authorities at the time of the bid for the House of Fraser by telling them they had a net worth of \$US1 billion; and
- That Mohamed deceived the government and people of the Caribbean island of Haiti and deprived them of \$US100,000;

House of Fraser said the DTT investigation went "off the rails" and the report had little to do with the affairs of House of Fraser. The brothers said the extreme conclusions about their background and the sources of wealth were "exploded" by inquiries by the Serious Fraud Office and the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Michael Cole, media director, said the money to buy House of Fraser was from the Fayed's own resources. He did not refute individually any other statements by the DTT inspectors.

## "Oh no... not another whine and cheese party..."

"Think Global!" said the Chief Executive.

"But always remember the local market!" warned the Marketing Director.

"More volume, more quality customers!" demanded the Sales Director.

The fighting talk had left us shell-shocked, and worse was to come... the conference cocktail party.

Oh no... not another whine and cheese party I thought, more shop, more work.



I couldn't have been more wrong, because we were in Jersey. The chap who organised the conference was born here, and he'd arranged a wine tasting for us at La Mare, the island's vineyard.

Beautiful spot, deep in the country, we forgot all about business - just what we needed. Strolling around the vineyard was like being back in Bordeaux.

Jersey's like that... you could be in Britain one minute, France the next.

There is talk of coming back next year and having the party in a medieval castle.

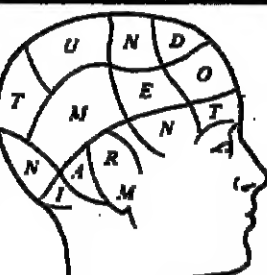
Perfect for the onslaught I thought...

# Jersey

A break, with convention

Send for details to: Conference Director, Jersey Conference Bureau, Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey, C.I. Tel. 0534 78000.

## INSIDE



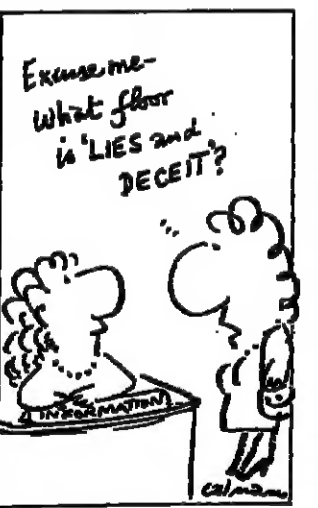
## TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND

● Round Three of The Times Tournament of the Mind will test your knowledge, numeracy and logic with questions devised and marked by Mensa.

● The Tournament is played over 20 rounds, with £5,000 and a computer to be won. Try your skills on page 13

● Birmingham - "city of the next century"? See our special feature, beginning on page 36

● Our four-page Science & Technology section, beginning on page 39, reports on Britain's battle of the beaches



## SDP defections

Lord Kennet, one of the SDP's most active peers, announced last night that he is defecting to the Labour Party. Two more SDP peers are preparing to follow him. The moves come in the wake of Dr Owen's disclosure that he might leave politics at the next general election. Page 2

## Afghan return

General Shauwaz Tanai, the former Afghan Defence Minister linked to the failed attempt to overthrow President Najibullah, was yesterday reported to be back in Afghanistan after flying to Pakistan. Page 9

## Ministers round on Militant

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

The Government yesterday blamed extreme left-wingers for the violence that has marked town-hall protests against the poll tax as it gratefully grasped the opportunity to deflect attention from its own difficulties.

Downing Street let it be known that the Prime Minister fully accepted the right to peaceful protest but deplored the violence and the burden it was placing on the police.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is scheduled to visit Scotland tomorrow and is almost certain to be met by demonstra-

The Times reveals today that 13 of the 17 regional organizers of the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation are Militant Tendency supporters and that other revolutionary parties have been involved in poll tax violence. Page 5

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tions organized by the Scottish Anti-Poll Tax Federation.

The Scots body is led by Mr Tommy Sheridan, a self-confessed Militant supporter who

has been expelled from the Labour Party.

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Conservative Party chairman, wrote to Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, calling on him to take action against Labour MPs who are backing the Anti-Poll Tax Federation, which is co-ordinating the protests and which he described as a front for the Militant Tendency. Militant was orchestrating "scenes of violence and intimidation".

Mr Baker said that by backing the federation Continued on page 24, col 2

## Apology by Browne

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Mr John Browne yesterday made a full apology to the House of Commons for failing to declare all his outside financial interests.

He told MPs as they discussed his punishment that he was "truly sorry" for his mistakes, for the misery he had caused his family and the embarrassment brought to the House and his constituency. He said he had misunderstood the rules on disclosure.

Mr Browne was the first speaker in a solemn debate and was heard in silence.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Leader of the Commons, pro-

posed a four-week suspension from the House for Mr Browne, saying that his "acts and omissions" did not match his responsibilities as an MP.

"One of those responsibilities," he said, "is to ensure that any personal financial or other interest is so managed and disclosed that it never is in conflict or is perceived to be in conflict with the fundamental obligations and responsibilities of an MP."

"It is in my opinion clear... that Mr Browne did not succeed in fulfilling that obligation."

Parliament, page 12

## Patten tries to deflect North Sea pollution storm

From Michael McCarthy Environment Correspondent The Hague



An unprecedented barrage of international environmental criticism descended on Britain yesterday at the Third North Sea Conference at The Hague.

Norway, Sweden and Denmark led the way by formally demanding of Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, that the sea dumping of industrial wastes and sewage sludge, which Britain alone continues, be halted immediately, and that plans for a new nuclear waste reprocessing plant at Dounreay in Scotland be cancelled.

Ireland, present at the conference as an observer, followed by calling for the closure of the giant nuclear reprocessing

plant at Sellafield in Cumbria, while other states, including West Germany, added obliquely to criticism of Britain's environmental record.

Speaking of the phasing out of sewage-sludge dumping by 1998, and the Government's earlier announcement that industrial waste dumping will be phased out by 1992-93, Mr Patten said: "We have put forward an important series of measures for further enhancing the quality of the North Sea." The real reason for the North Sea's problems was river-borne pollutants from continental Europe. "I hope when we next meet at a North Sea conference all the other member states are able to point to river quality as high as that in the United Kingdom," he said.

Mr Patten said of the call by Mr

Padraig Flynn, the Irish Environment Minister, for the closure of Sellafield, that in two previous formal meetings it was "the first time I have ever heard him mention Sellafield". Discharges at the plant had been reduced by 90 per cent over the past 10 years and present investment envisaged a further 90 per cent reduction of remaining waste.

Mr Patten said Dounreay would be considered as a possible candidate for the European fast-breeder reactor programme. "But there won't be a decision on that for another five or six years," he said. "If, and I suggest it is quite a substantial if, Dounreay were to be chosen it would need to go through all the tightest sort of planning controls and we would obviously want to consult our colleagues very closely indeed."

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## NEWS ROUNDUP

## UVF link to fate of stolen paintings

The Ulster Volunteer Force, the Protestant paramilitary organization, has been trying to raise funds in Turkey by offering paintings valued at £100 million which were stolen from the Sir Alfred Beit collection four years ago (Edward Gorman and Sarah Jane Checkland write).

The 17 paintings, including works by Goya, Velazquez and Vermeer, were taken from the home in Co Wicklow of the octogenarian South African billionaire during a night raid in 1986.

"The Letter Writer," by Gabriel Metsu, the 17th-century Dutch artist, was recovered by the police in Turkey last week. Six other works were recovered previously.

Four people from Co Armagh, Northern Ireland, are believed to have been acting as intermediaries for a prominent Dublin criminal figure who planned the original theft of the paintings in 1986.

The *Irish Times*, quoting sources in the Irish police and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, said yesterday that the Dublin man still had "control" over the paintings.

The newspaper said it was thought all but one of the paintings may still be in Ireland.

Sources said it appeared that the Metsu was the only painting from the collection to be taken to Turkey. The rest were believed to be still in Dublin.

## £2.5bn tourist gap

The tourism trade gap grew 20 per cent wider last year in spite of a healthy increase in overseas visitors to Britain (Shona Crawford Poole writes).

The deficit on the travel account of the balance of payments increased to £2.5 billion in 1989 from £2 billion the year before. The widening trend was "a concern," Lord Strathclyde, Minister for Tourism, said last night, but he dismissed the possibility of travel or currency restrictions. There was a 9 per cent rise in overseas visitors to Britain, to 17,200,000.

## Prison officer's win

Prison officers celebrated yesterday what they saw as an important restoration of bargaining power after the Court of Appeal ruled that a prison officer was wrongfully suspended during a dispute. (Quentin Cowdry writes). The court decided that the Prison Department's suspension of Mrs Rebecca Attard without pay from Holloway prison, north London, was unlawful. In a separate appeal a suspended Wandsworth prison officer was told he could continue to seek legal redress.

## Defence chief named

General Sir Richard Vincent, who headed a senior British military delegation to the Soviet Union last year, has been appointed the next Chief of the Defence Staff. Sir Richard, aged 58, who is vice-chief of the defence staff, will take over in a year's time. He will replace Sir David Craig, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, who will have held the job for over two years by the time he retires at the age of 61.

## Drug case judge freed

A Pakistani judge jailed for 10 years by Guildford Crown Court in 1988 for heroin trafficking had his conviction quashed and sentence set aside by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Syed Iqbal, a civil judge from Lahore, detained at Heathrow airport in August 1987 with nearly three kilos of the drug, had claimed that heroin had been placed in his luggage without his knowledge by "an enemy". The appeal court said his conviction was unsafe and unsatisfactory.

## Car bomb false alarm

Bomb disposal experts who examined a Royal Navy officer's car after he reported what he thought was an explosives booby-trap said yesterday it had been a false alarm (Paul Wilkinson writes). A malfunction in the engine had caused a loud backfire when he attempted to drive it from its parking place on a street in York on Monday night, North Yorkshire Police said. They praised the officer, based at RAF Linton-on-Ouse, for his "prompt action" in raising the alert.

## Gadaffi men 'investigating loans allegations'

By a Staff Reporter

The Libyan who claims to have arranged the payment of £163,000 to the National Union of Mineworkers has said that Colonel Gaddafi has sent a team of investigators to Britain.

Mr Abasi informed his controllers of reports alleging that Libyan money intended for miners suffering hardship had also been used to pay off personal loans by NUM officials.

He told the *Daily Mirror* that he was immediately ordered back to Tripoli on a Libyan Airlines flight, delayed to give him time to catch it.

Mr Abasi says that he and Mr Roger Windsor, former chief executive of the NUM, met Mr Salim Ibrahim, Colonel Gaddafi's paymaster in Paris, and asked for £2 million. He then made three trips to Tripoli to fetch cash "in sterling £20 notes".

Mr Abasi said: "There were three payments I handed over at

three different places. I wanted an independent witness each time."

The money was collected in Tripoli from a "Mr Bashir", leader of the Libyan union movement, and reported to be one of Colonel Gaddafi's top intelligence men. Mr Abasi used the codename, "Doctor" and referred to Mr Scargill as the "Patient".

Mr Abasi, aged 44, was born in Pakistan and became the highly-regarded European representative of the Libyan-backed group Al Zulfikar (The Sword). He was awarded Colonel Gaddafi's prized Medal of Great Awakening. Al Zulfikar was behind the hijacking of a Pakistani airliner nine years ago, when Mr Abasi was serving a 25-year sentence in Pakistan for supposedly plotting with Libyan diplomats to blow up a mosque. He was freed in a hostage exchange and moved to Doncaster, North Yorkshire, where he had a grocery shop, which he rarely visited. "He travels a lot," an assistant said.

Mr Windsor, aged 45, has given the *Daily Mirror* details of the Libyan allegations, which he alleges, involved himself, Mr Arthur Scargill, the NUM president, and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary, and payment of personal debts.

Mr Windsor, who says he and his family fear Libyan reprisals, claims to have been sent to Tripoli by Mr Scargill in October 1984 to beg for cash from Colonel Gaddafi and to have later collected £163,000 from Mr Abasi at addresses in Yorkshire. Initially, he says, he took it to his Sheffield home and "what we couldn't keep in my briefcase we stuffed into biscuit tins and boxes on the top shelf of the larder. Scargill knew each time I went to pick the money up."

Of the trip to Libya, Mr Windsor says: "I was swept along by events. Arthur told me, 'This is the greatest contribution you can make to the miners' strike'. He assured me he would stand by me in everything I

did. I wouldn't say it was an honour that was bestowed on me. I felt that I had pulled the short straw, but I agreed to go."

"Now my feelings are of bitter disappointment—how Arthur tried to distance himself from me when things started going wrong."

On television last Monday night, Mr Windsor claimed that Mr Scargill met Mr Abasi at the Windsor's home in Sheffield. Mr Scargill has said he met Mr Abasi by chance at the Windsor's home when he visited it with his wife after a Nottinghamshire miners' meeting.

Mr Scargill said: "I found Mr Abasi was in Mr Windsor's home. I certainly did not arrange to meet him there and did not have any discussion with him when I was there."

He said he first met Mr Abasi in 1984 when they were introduced by Mr Windsor at a conference. The two met again in Paris in October of that year. The only other times they had met were at a Labour Party

conference in Bournemouth and the occasion at Mr Windsor's home.

Mr Scargill has vehemently denied using £25,000 of Libyan money to repay a mortgage and Mr Heathfield has denied getting £17,000 for home improvements. Mr Windsor says he received £29,500 of the Libyan money to pay off a bridging loan and that he now wants to pay it to Libya or the miners' solidarity fund.

Mr Scargill denies all knowledge of any Libyan money reaching the NUM and describes the allegations against him as "character assassination".

Referring to the feelings of NUM members, he said: "The fact is that at the end of the day all I can do is to base my record clearly in front of the membership and say I have never told you a lie. I have always told you the truth, and at the end of the day I am quite convinced that they will believe me because my record proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that I have never let them down."

## SDP facing break-up threat as peers defect

By Sheila Ginn, Political Reporter

Fresh signs emerged last night of the break-up of the Social Democratic Party as Westminster in the wake of Dr David Owen's disclosure that he might leave politics at the next general election.

Lord Kennet, one of the SDP's most active peers, announced that he is defecting to the Labour Party.

Two more SDP peers are preparing to follow him and are expected to disclose their plans at the party's weekly meeting later today.

The departure of Lord Kennet, a Labour Party member from 1956 to 1981, is a significant blow to the party as he is the foreign affairs and defence spokesman in the upper House, and served as a junior Labour minister in the Wilson administration and later as an MEP.

The defection of three peers in one week would leave the SDP with only 19 peers and three MPs.

In addition four SDP peers have left the party since last summer, with Lord Young of Dartington, a leading sociologist, rejoining the Labour peers last summer; Lord Flowers, the distinguished scientist and academic, switching to

the independent cross-benches; and Lord Hanworth, a barrister and engineer, moving to the Liberal Democrats.

Lord Kennet said last night "It always seemed possible that the formation of the SDP would cause the Labour Party to return to its true nature, which is that of a social democratic party of the European mainstream."

"At last year's Labour conference it was clear that this was well on the way; only the disarmament policy was still a bit imprecise but that has now been overtaken by the great possibilities that have opened up throughout Europe."

He predicted that Labour would soon advocate a reform to proportional representation.

"A Conservative Party that has allowed the present Prime Minister to damage Britain to the extent we now see has to be opposed in the most effective way possible."

Dr Owen said he "regretted" Lord Kennet's decision, but recognized an individual's right to belong to the political party of his choice.

Lady Stedman, leader of the SDP peers, said: "We are sorry to see him go."

## Apollo ascends heavenwards



A colour photograph, achieved via laser scan, of "Apollo Surrounded by the Muses", a 19th-century mural, is fitted into place at Queens House Maritime Museum in Greenwich, home of the original before it was removed to Marlborough House.

## Birmingham pub bombings

## Six say they 'want truth to be told'

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

The six men serving life sentences for the 1974 Birmingham public house bombings have made it clear they are not interested in parole and will only leave prison if their convictions are quashed.

Their decision was announced yesterday by two of the men in an interview on BBC Radio 4, which some Conservative MPs said was an insult to the 21 people who died and 162 injured in the atrocity.

Interviewed in Long Lartin prison near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester, Johnny Walker and Hugh Callaghan said they and the four others convicted for the bombings were determined their "innocence" should be officially recognized. In the first state-

ment publicly broadcast by one of the six since they were jailed in 1975, Walker said: "We will not leave prison until the truth is told. We don't want parole, we want no pats on the back. We just want the truth so we can go home to our wives and families."

Walker, aged 55, whose comments came at a time when the Home Office is facing intense pressure to reopen the cases of the six, said he was confident that they would be exonerated.

The Home Office said that although journalists were allowed to interview convicted inmates from time to time, it felt the broadcast breached a convention that such interviews should not allow inmates to comment

directly on the circumstances surrounding their convictions. The BBC said it had received just two complaints from listeners about the interview.

Three suspected IRA terrorists alleged to have been behind attacks against British military personnel on the Continent came a step closer yesterday to extradition from France for trial in West Germany (Philip Jacobson writes from Paris).

After a brief hearing in Paris, the court of appeal cleared the way for the two men and a woman arrested in the Moselle region on Bastille Day last year to become the first people to be handed over by the French government under the Convention on Terrorism, which France rat-

fied less than a year ago. The court ruled that Mr Patrick Murray, aged 45, Mr Donald O'Kane, aged 29, and Miss Pauline Drums, aged 23, should not be re-extradited to Britain by West Germany without France's approval.

It is now up to the French government to make the final decision whether to comply with Bonn's request.

The West German federal court of justice has accused all three of "murder, attempted murder, causing explosions, firearms offences and conspiracy with other law-breakers". The West German authorities have made it clear that all the alleged offences are connected with the activities of an IRA unit operating against British targets in Rhine army bases.

## Sotheby's ex-chairman linked to silver

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

Sotheby's is investigating claims that the late Mr Peter Wilson, its chairman in the early 1980s, owned items from the Seso Roman silver hoard and that he was the mystery "third man" who sold them to Lord Northampton.

His involvement could, it is claimed, mean Sotheby's breached the code of practice under which the fine art trade operates. Claims of Mr Wilson's connection have embarrassed the auction house, which is already under fire for its role in selling the £40 million treasure.

Sotheby's New York initially denied Mr Wilson had owned part of the 14-piece collection but last night a spokesman said the auction house had to make further inquiries.

"If Sotheby's were connected with the original owners they have breached the Code of Practice for the Control of International Trading in Works of Art," one auctioneer said. Since February 9,

when Sotheby's announced its plan to sell the collection, there has been intense speculation as to its origin and whether it has been exported legally.

Mr Charles Allsopp, chairman of Christie's, said: "The world confuses Christie's with Sotheby's and other auction houses, and something like this does all of us no good."

The code, signed by both auction houses as well as the British Antique Dealers Association in 1984, gives an undertaking by signatories not to import, export or transfer the ownership of objects which may have been "acquired dishonestly or illegally from an official excavation site or monument or originated from an illegal, clandestine or otherwise unofficial site".

Although the code was established after Lord Northampton's purchase, there were unconfirmed fears yesterday that Sotheby's may have known of Mr Wilson's involvement and that accordingly it had breached both the Unesco

agreement that member countries do not trade in smuggled goods and its own code of practice.

So far Sotheby's will confirm only that Mr Wilson, authenticated the silver in a written report. There was also speculation as to where the other 16 pieces of the hoard are situated, after the disclosure that Lord Northampton's consignment was probably only half of the original collection.

One source said they were being kept in a bank vault in Zurich where the Northampton silver was once stored. Others believe the pieces have been distributed to private collectors in Europe.

The Lebanese Embassy in Washington is gathering evidence to support that country's claim to the silver, however there are strong indications that the silver was initially found in Yugoslavia.

There was also a strong feeling that adverse publicity may have damaged the hoard's value.

## EC threat to organic farms

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

The future of organic farming is threatened by draft European Community legislation that could lead to consumers paying high prices for food in the mistaken belief that it was free of chemicals, it was claimed yesterday.

In an unusual show of unity, the Government, organic growers and conventional farmers condemned the Brussels draft on the ground that it would set lax standards for organic produce. There is

particular concern about a clause allowing food to be labelled "organic" if it was sold only 12 months after the last application of manufactured fertilizer to the land.

"In our view this would open the way for potential fraud and undermine all the hard work we have done to get high standards accepted," Mr Patrick Holden, director of the British Organic Farmers' and Growers' Association, said. "It could mean

that you could apply fertilizer at the end of the summer, sow a winter wheat crop in October and harvest it the following August and sell the resulting product as organic."

Under the UK Register of Organic Producers Standards, introduced last year, a crop can be labelled organic only if it is sown at least two years after the last application of chemicals to the land, which means that three years elapse before it is harvested and sold.

## CORRECTION

The community charge for the London Borough of Barnet is £338, not £390 as stated on March 3. Barnet is 7 per cent above the figure assessed by the Department of the Environment, not 54 per cent.

By the Times overseas

Austria Sch 32 Belgium Frs 35 Canada \$2.75 Denmark Dkr 200 Finland Mk 1000 France F 1000 Germany DM 100 Greece Dr 240 Hong Kong HK\$ 100 Italy Lit 2000 Japan Yen 1000 Korea Won 1000 Luxembourg Lfr 1000 Netherlands Gld 1000 Norway Kr 1000 Portugal Esc 200 Spain Ptas 166.64 Sweden Sfr 100 Switzerland Frs 100 Taiwan NT\$ 100 Turkey Lira 100 USA \$1.00

UNLESS THE TRUCKS GET THROUGH, THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD IN ETHIOPIA.



Once again northern Ethiopia is in the grips of a major famine. War, drought and resulting crop failure have already taken their toll.

Cases of serious malnutrition and starvation are inflating statistics at an alarming rate.

Only this time it's not just lack of food that's claiming lives. It's lack of transport.

And lack of compassion from those who are still attacking food convoys on the few trucks that are the only link between the food depots and the starving.

Until agreements can be made we'll have to rely on the fact that the more trucks we put on the road, the more trucks will get through to save the living.

But we must not waste time. They desperately need your support now.

We urgently need to see hundreds of trucks covering the ground in Ethiopia.

Not hundreds of thousands of dying people.

My donation to Ethiopia is ☐ £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £15

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Access/Visa ☐ 24 hour Creditline Access/Visa only 01-930 1341.

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Postcode:

Signature:

Cheques payable to: U.N.A. Trust Ethiopia Appeal. Send to: The U.N.A. Trust, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

Unless you say otherwise, 10% of your donation will be used to help our campaign to get U.N.A. food convoys opened up.





# Excessive drinking costs businesses up to £800m a year

By John Young

Up to 14 million working days are lost each year because of excessive or "inappropriate" drinking, at a cost to industry of an estimated £800 million, it was claimed yesterday.

The figures were produced at the launch of a government-backed campaign by the charity Alcohol Concern to persuade companies that alcohol misuse is an industrial as well as a social problem, and to adopt policies to combat it.

Mr Ossie O'Brien, director of Alcohol Concern's workplace advisory service, said precise figures were almost impossible to obtain but that the problem was more widespread than was generally supposed.

"We should like to see more

organizations adopt alcohol policies which would generally encourage safe and sensible drinking habits, while also identifying employees with drinking problems at an early stage and offering them guidance to seek appropriate help," he said.

The campaign was launched officially by Mr Patrick Nicholson, Under-Secretary of State for Employment, who announced an initial government grant of £100,000.

The Confederation of British Industry, the TUC and the Institute of Personnel Management have also declared their support.

The campaign organizers have identified a number of occupations which appear to

carry considerable risks of excessive and harmful drinking.

Among the most frequently suggested reasons for excessive drinking are strains and stresses, danger, responsibility, lack of job security and boredom, freedom from supervision, the availability of alcohol at work and social pressures to drink at work.

Contrary to popular belief, most people with drinking problems have full-time jobs and can be found at every level from the shopfloor to the boardroom.

The results can be measured in figures for accidents and absences because of sickness, as well as in reduced efficiency, poor decision making and lost productivity.

Often, signs that an employee has a drink problem are overlooked. Among them are patterns of absence around weekends; the frequency and timing of accidents; late returns to work from lunch; unpredictable mood changes; instability and unreliability; depression; fluctuating work performance; and poor co-operation with colleagues.

An alcohol policy means problems at work should be seen as a health matter rather than an immediate cause for dismissal or disciplinary action.

Aims of the policy should be to promote the health and wellbeing of employees. It should also encourage safe and sensible drinking habits, to identify employees with possible problems at an early stage and encourage them to seek help, and to offer the opportunity of medical help.

## Vulnerable occupations - liver cirrhosis mortality amongst British males (1979-80, 1982-83)

Average occupation	Mortality rate
Publicans	1,017
Seamen	900
Barmen	612
Managers: hotels/clubs, entertainment & sports	553
Doct: engineering & radio officers & pilots, ship	417
Electrical engineers (as described)	387
Officers (ships and aircraft), air traffic planners and controllers	337
Officers, UK armed forces	303
Catering supervisors	297
Fishermen	296
Bus conductors	277
Chefs/cooks	265
Restaurateurs	263
Authors/writers/journalists	251
General labourers	247
Drivers: motor	225
Actors/musicians/entertainers/stage managers	222
Judges/barristers/advocates/solicitors	155
Domestic and school helpers	141
Garage proprietors	140
Chapmen/ministers of religion	131
Physicists/radiographers/therapists	127
Medical and dental practitioners	115
Nurse administrators, nurses	108

## SAFER DAY

### Owl jug to return to Stoke

By Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A jug shaped in the form of a plump, perching owl, discovered recently on the BBC television programme *Antiques Road Show*, will return to its place of origin at a ceramics museum at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, after its sale for £20,900 at Phillips yesterday.

Mr Alistair Sampson, a London dealer, bid on the museum's behalf to end a long quest for the eccentric piece of 18th-century Staffordshire pottery. The museum had previously owned only a headless owl.

Curators failed last year to raise enough funds to buy a similar owl at Sotheby's. The purchase, within estimate, was aided by funds from the National Art Collections Fund and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

The owl, bought from a Birmingham antiques shop for a few pounds in the 1930s, had spent the past few decades as a flower pot until Mr Henry Sandon, the ceramics specialist, spotted it during filming of the television programme.

Spain hopes to break the world record for the Cubist artist Juan Gris on March 22. A collage painting of a violin, dated October 1914, is estimated at 380 million pesetas (£2.5 million).

The auction by Edmund Peet and Associates also includes an important work by Joaquin Sorolla y Bastida, estimated at £500,000.

## PORTFOLIO

There were no winners in yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platform competition, so today's prize money is doubled up to £4,000.

## Jail chief tells of car bomb escape

By Edward Gorman, Irish Affairs Correspondent

A prison governor told a Belfast court yesterday that he had stopped and parked his car three times while on a shopping trip with his wife before realizing that a bomb was attached to its underside.

Mr Thomas Murtagh, who was governor of a centre for young offenders near Belfast, said a friend of his wife had told him in a supermarket that she thought she had heard a radio report suggesting that his car may have been booby trapped. He dismissed the warning, assuming she had mistaken his name for that of a colleague.

Mr Murtagh was giving evidence at Belfast Crown Court on the second day of the trial of Christopher John Hanna, aged 45, a former prison officer in the H Blocks of the Maze prison, who denies 11 charges, including aiding and abetting the murder of a fellow prison officer, and the attempted murder of Mr Murtagh.

Mr Hanna, of Magheragall, near Lisburn, Co Antrim, is alleged to have collected infor-

mation on his colleagues and passed it on to the IRA knowing it would be used in an attempt to kill them. He also faces charges in connection with a planned escape from the Maze by republican prisoners last July.

Mr Murtagh normally drove an armoured Austin Maestro, owned by the Northern Ireland police authority, but for their shopping trip on October 5, 1988, he and his wife had used her Honda Accord.

They had stopped at three different locations on their shopping trip, finally parking the car outside a supermarket.

It was only half an hour after he had dismissed the woman's warning that Mr Murtagh noticed a box attached to the underside of the car on the driver's side.

Earlier, the court was told that the bomb contained a quantity of Semtex high explosive, designed to detonate when mercury in a tilt switch moved with the motion of the car.

The trial continues today.

## Ex-Army captain denies double rape

A woman told a court yesterday that she was raped twice by a former captain in the Royal Artillery after being told he would behave "like a gentleman".

The woman told the Central Criminal Court that after dinner at his home, he had carried her struggling and screaming on his shoulders into his bedroom, where the attack allegedly took place.

"I was crying, frightened and upset. He kept looking at me as if I wasn't really there. There was no emotion on his face whatsoever," she said.

Oliver Rudd, aged 26, of

Enfield, north London, who retired from the Army last year, has pleaded not guilty.

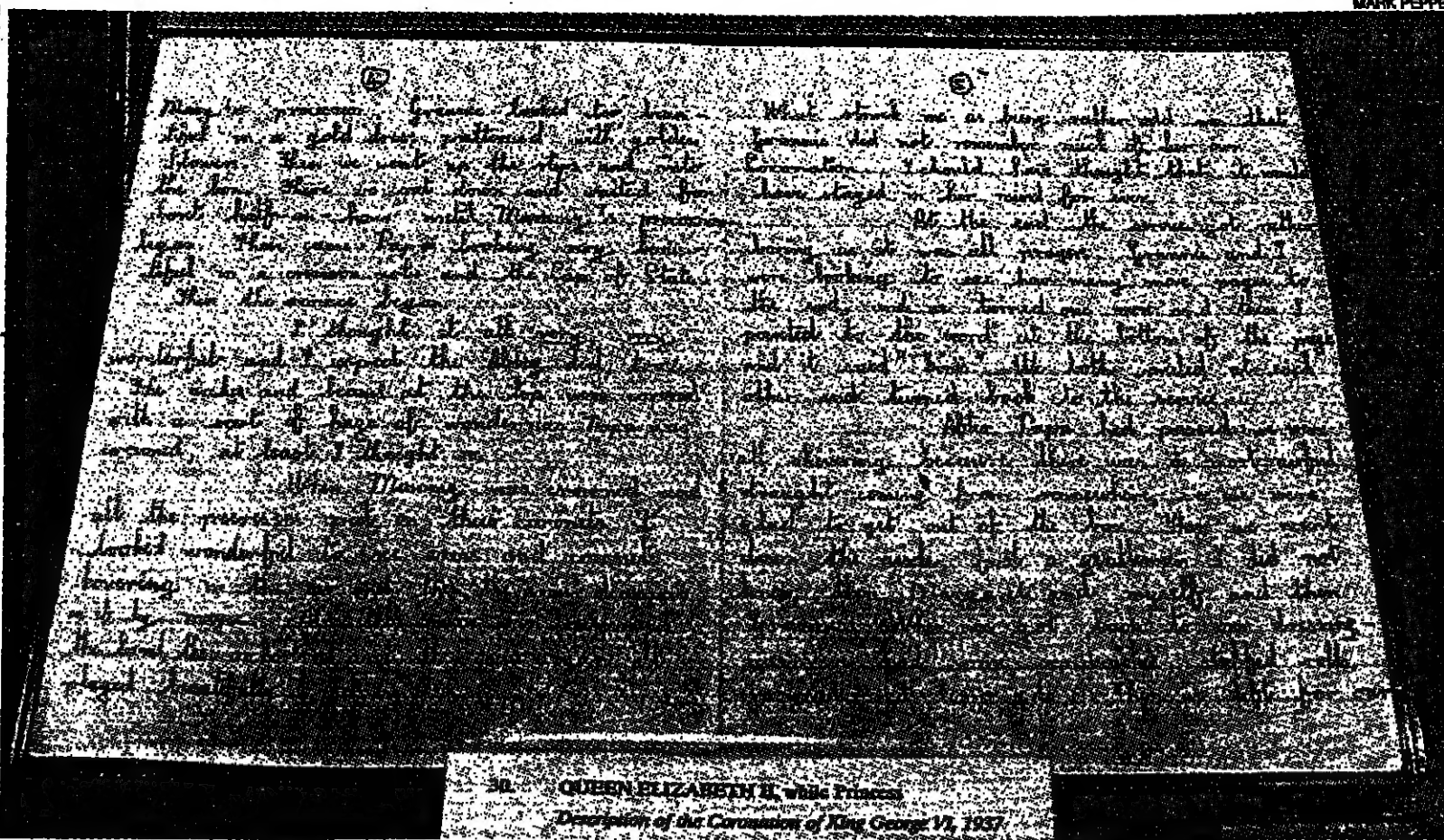
The woman, a personal assistant, aged 26, said she had accepted a dinner invitation with Mr Rudd after being assured by a former boyfriend who knew him that he was "a gentleman and it would be perfectly safe".

Mr Bernard Phelvin, for the prosecution, said that after his arrest Mr Rudd had denied the allegations. He had told the police she was an "active and willing participant" in all that had happened.

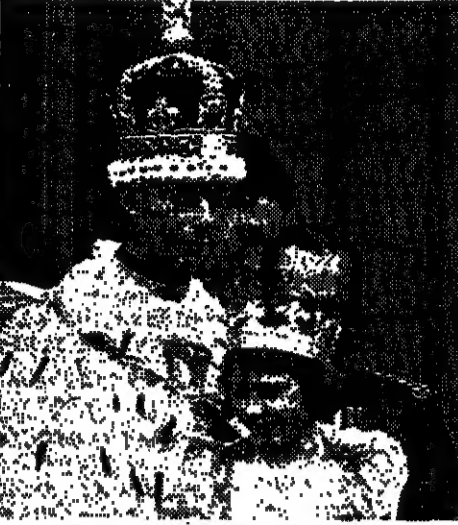
The case continues today.

## Private thoughts of a very public family

MARK PEPPER



The coronation of George VI in 1937 recalled in the hand of his daughter, the young Princess Elizabeth, who "thought it all very, very wonderful".



After the coronation, father and daughter at Buckingham Palace.

George III's private journal is one of the main attractions in an exhibition entitled *A Royal Miscellany*, which opens at Buckingham Palace tomorrow (Simon Tait writes).

The journal, taken from the Royal Library at Windsor Castle which is being refurbished, releases for public view "a feast of treasures and curiosities", as a 19th-century private visitor described it, many for the first time.

"It's more of a museum than a library," Mr Oliver Everett, the Royal Librarian, said. "It particularly reflects the personalities of the Royal Family."

The Queen is represented in the exhibition by her account of the coronation of her father, George VI, in 1937, when she was 11.

She was standing next to her grandmother, Queen Mary, as the ceremony went on, and on ... "At

the end, the service got rather boring as it was all prayers. Grammie and I were looking to see how many more pages to the end, and we turned one more and then I pointed to the word at the bottom of the page and it said 'Finit'. We both smiled at each other and turned back to the service."

There are the journals of Queen Charlotte and of Queen Victoria, and the latter's theatrical paintings and love songs written for her by Prince Albert.

There are water-colours by the present Prince of Wales, the shirt worn by Charles I at his execution, the clock which Henry VIII gave to Anne Boleyn, and a Mappa Mundi fragment predating the Hereford Cathedral Mappa by 30 years.

Within the collections of personal royal memorabilia are signs of the informed collector.

Charles I's art collection was reputed to be the finest in the world until it was almost completely destroyed in a fire at Whitehall Palace.

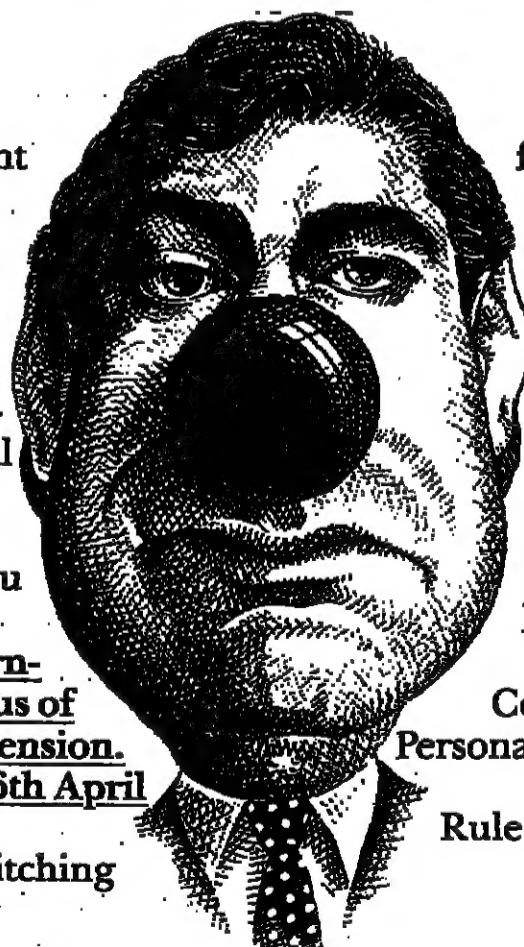
His heirs carried on the tradition, however, particularly with important books such as the Mainz Psalter of 1457, the second book to be printed with moveable type, and also Caxton's *Asop's Fables* of 1484.

On exhibit are decorations that have been worn by royalty. There are also the mechanisms which delighted George II such as an astronomical clock, now back in the glass-topped display desk in which it was originally set.

Visitors will find the only Turner in the royal collection, a painting of Windsor Castle bought by the Queen in 1987.

The exhibition continues until January 13 next year.

## This year, April Fool's Day falls on the 6th.



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A57/P1 [18] RT

## Hovercraft windfall for widow

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

An elderly widow whose husband played a key role in the development of the hovercraft is to receive a windfall after an historic legal battle in the United States patent courts.

Mrs Margaret Bliss, an 81-year-old widow, is believed to be in her late sixties, is to receive a "generous" ex gratia payment from the British Technology Group (BTG), the former National Research Development Corporation, which, in 1959, backed the hovercraft scheme.

It was announced yesterday that the US Defence Department has agreed to pay \$6.1 million (£3.7 million) to BTG's subsidiary, Hovercraft Development Ltd, to settle long-standing patent theft claims.

The undisclosed sum for Mrs Bliss, a librarian with Voluntary Service Overseas, is to recognize the "significant" contribution that her late husband, Mr Denis Bliss, made to the project, BTG said.

He was one of more than 200 engineers working in the early 1960s at Hythe, Hampshire, to commercialize the craft, and he came up with the crucial design of its segmented, pressurized skirt.

Yesterday, the craft's inventor, Sir Christopher Cockerell, aged 79, said that Mr Bliss's contribution was second only to his own.

Without the segmented skirt, the craft would have been able to hover, but unable to go over waves and rocks, Mr Maurice Martin, engineering director at BTG, said.

The 20-year wrangle with

the Pentagon centred on skirt technology in military hovercraft. The Pentagon claimed that under a 1953 technology exchange treaty between Britain and the US, intellectual property rights did not apply to the skirt.

In what is described as an intense legal poker game against a "very powerful opponent with a limitless pocket", BTG took the US Government to court in 1985.

Mr John Morton, BTG's company secretary, said: "They tried to string things out and hoped we would either go away or be paid off with a few dollars."

The US Government settlement, announced on Tuesday after the courts backed BTG, means that the craft has, more than 30 years after its invention, made a modest profit.



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We did this because we believed that 14.8% was a more realistic and sustainable rate, and that our customers would benefit in the long term.

We have been proved right.

Despite the fact that there hasn't been a rise in base rates since October, other societies have been forced to put up their mortgage rates.

And the Bristol & West is now the only Top 10 society that has held its rate; and we will continue at least until the Budget when we'll review the situation.

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Another way to even out interest rate fluctuations is our new Balanced Mortgage. This lets you choose your own monthly repayments for 3 years. And at a time of especially high interest rates, this could mean a saving of as much as 20%, with 22 years to pay the difference.

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death driver jailed Hunt with

accident

ad out

seekers

escape

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## The poll tax debate: the Militant connection

## Thirteen who organized town hall sieges named

By Jamie Dettmer  
and Ray Clancy

This week's violent poll tax agitation has sparked a dramatic resurgence in the fortunes of Militant Tendency and other Trotskyite groups. They believe they have struck a rich vein of protest that could help them to restore their influence within the Labour Party and public-sector unions.

The Times has discovered that the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation, the organization behind the violent scenes in council chambers across the country, is hardly distinguishable from Militant itself. Thirteen out of the 17 regional organizers of the federation are Militant Tendency supporters.

Other groups which have become associated with the agitation include the Socialist Workers' Party, the Revolutionary Communist Party, the Socialist Organizer and a number of anarchist groups, including Class War, known for its violent tactics during the Wapping print dispute in 1986.

But Mr Peter Taffie, editor of *Militant*, sitting among anti-poll tax posters in his office in Hackney, east London, admitted yesterday that "the role of Militant in the federation is a prominent one". He added: "We believe in organizing resistance to the poll tax, of organizing a campaign of mass civil disobedience."

Although that campaign is on one level aimed at the Government's community change, its ultimate target is to disrupt Mr Neil Kinnock's leadership of the Labour Party. Moderate Labour MPs fear that Militant has a secret agenda designed again to make the Trotskyite organization a significant force within the Labour Party.

According to Militant insiders, Militant supporters have been ordered to concentrate on organizing marches against Labour councils rather than Conservative ones and to use the agitation to recruit new members into the Trotskyite organization.

In a dossier compiled by *The Times*, the scale of Militant's infiltration into the federation is revealed for the first time. The 13 Militant supporters who are the regional organizers are Mr Jeff Goulding, chairman of the Liverpool Anti-Poll Tax Committee, who has written in *Militant* about the importance of linking the campaign with the Labour Party; Miss Cathy Harding (Wales), praised as "a class fighter" in *Militant*; Mr Jack Harvey (west Scotland), who has called for "making the poll tax unworkable in Scotland and a non-

Role is  
organizing  
resistance  
to tax

starter for the rest of the country" in *Militant*; Mr Steve Hoare (east Midlands); Mr Wally Kennedy (London); Mr Kevin Miles (Northern); Mr Dave Murray (Eastern); Mr Steve Nally, who wrote in *Militant* that "this movement could be the breaking of Thatcher"; Mr John Rathbone (press officer); Miss Maureen Reynolds (treasurer); Mr Tommy Sheridan (chairman), who was expelled from the Labour Party last year for membership of Militant; Mr Russell Taylor (east Scotland); and Mr Rob Windsor (West Midlands).

A long-term strategy using the anti-poll tax agitation was mapped out over a year ago by Mr Taffie and Mr Ted Grant, the organization's main political thinker, according to insiders.

That strategy was first seen in Scotland last year. Militant supporters started to form local anti-poll tax unions or to hijack ones formed by other groups.

One of the most productive ways in which Militant have drummed up support is by door-to-door canvassing with poll tax leaflets, petitions and membership cards. Many of the people working with the various federation committees are young, unemployed Militant supporters. They are encouraged to spend their time walking around housing estates and knocking on every door where they sign up new members. Miss Louise James, aged 25

and unemployed, who set up a committee on the Hoxton estate in Hackney, said: "I am a Militant supporter because it is the only organization which has actively campaigned for people not to pay the poll tax."

She spends all her time working for the London branch of the federation which operates from a flat in Stratford, east London. "I come from a family of Labour Party supporters. I joined the party when I left school and see nothing wrong with supporting Militant."

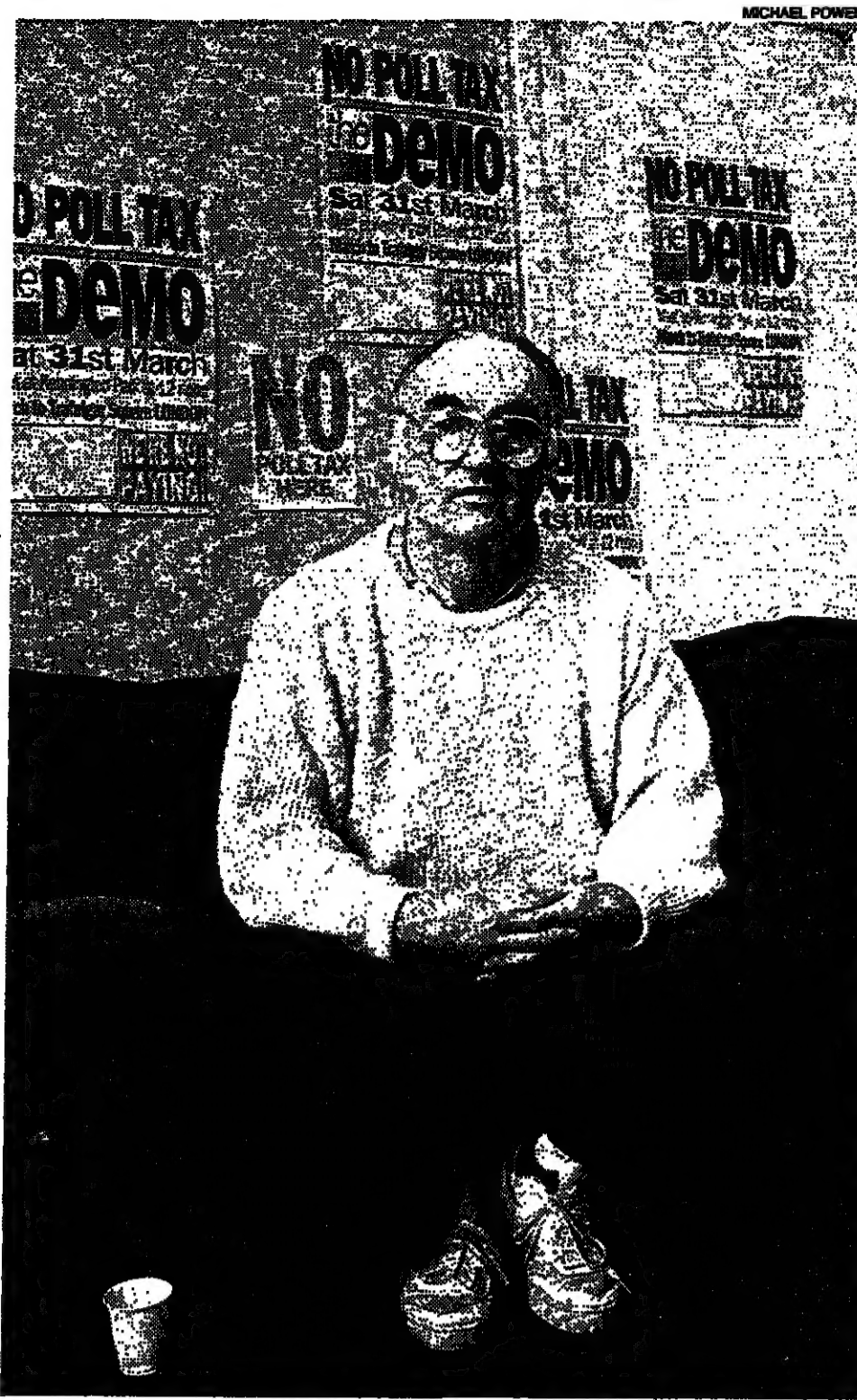
Last year, Labour Party managers in London began to notice a sudden upsurge in membership applications from branches in Scotland they had not heard a word from for years. Party officials started to investigate these applications and unearthed Militant's role.

In London last September the Federation of Anti-Poll Tax Unions launched its English and Welsh campaigns, claiming 489 affiliated unions and groups had pledged support for non-payment.

Many of the "smash the poll tax" leaflets seen being distributed at demonstrations outside town halls and at APTU stalls set up in high streets on Saturdays are being printed by Militant — the wealthiest of the Trotskyite groups — on its own presses in the East End of London.

Since the early 1980s Militant has had ample sums available for campaigning. It has five main sources of income: ad hoc donations to the organization's "fighting fund" which probably bring in about £200,000 a year; sales of the organization's weekly newspaper *Militant*, which account for a further £250,000; commercial profits from its London printing firms, Cambridge Heath Press and Eastway Offset; regular and large subscriptions from Militant supporters who are prepared to give about 15 per cent of their salaries over to the organization; and donations from trade union officials and branches. At least £1 million is available to Militant every year for campaigning.

Militant is anxious to harness more financial support from the union movement by capturing the control of at least one public-sector union. Mr Roger Bannister, a known Militant supporter, is in the running to become general secretary of Nalco, the local government union, in a postal ballot which starts today. Moderates in the union fear that Mr Bannister could win if there is a low vote. If elected, Mr Bannister has pledged that he will direct Nalco members to boycott collection of the poll tax.

Mr Taffie, editor of *Militant*, yesterday: "We believe in organizing resistance to the tax."Inside the  
campaign  
fortress

By Ray Clancy

The main Militant office in east London resembles a fortress, with electronic gates, spy cameras angled from the roof and nasty looking metal spikes on the walls.

There are no outward signs, no signs, posters or stickers, just a pair of electronic gates covered with peeling green paint. On the stone wall is a dilapidated intercom with wires hanging out.

Cars and people going into the building have to be allowed entry from inside. It took a great deal of arguing yesterday to gain entry to the "citadel", a drab grey building.

Inside Mr Ken Smith, press officer, said: "We had someone try to burn down the building 10 years ago."

The atmosphere is not exactly relaxed inside. Beside the reception desk were three closed-circuit television screens. On the walls a splash of yellow and red stands out from the anti-poll tax poster. It was in front of these that Mr Peter Taffie, editor of *Militant* since it was founded in 1964, positioned himself.

He was born in Birkenside, Merseyside, during the Second World War, and is married with two daughters. He was expelled from the Labour Party in 1982.

In practice he is the Militant movement's general secretary. He speaks passionately against the poll tax. "The Labour movement should be putting itself at the head of this campaign and help organize the mass resistance and cause the Government to retreat," he said.

"We support most of the laws in Britain when they are against crime but there are occasions when laws are included which are against the interests of the majority."

Van death  
driver  
is jailed

A drink-driver who caused the death of the daughter of Paul Henry, an actor in the *Crossroads* TV series, was yesterday jailed for 18 months.

Alan Ward, aged 24, of Quinton, Birmingham, drank six pints of beer before crashing his van on the way to a party, killing Justine Smith, aged 18, who was a passenger, last March.

Ward, a painter and decorator, who was also banned from driving for five years, admitted causing death by reckless driving.

## Train accident

A man was stable in hospital last night after losing both legs beneath the knees when he was hit by a train. Mr Andrew Madeley, aged 27, of Crewe, Cheshire, crawled 20ft along the track near the town and flagged down another train.

## Kitted out

New taxi drivers in Bradford, West Yorkshire, will have to take a first aid course as a condition of their licence and carry a first aid kit.

## Parent seekers

A record 599 adopted Scottish children sought help in finding their natural parents last year.

## Prison escape

Seven prisoners have escaped from Norwich Prison, Norfolk, after friends on the outside cut a perimeter fence.

## £1.5m winner

A retired policeman from Cumbria has won a record £1,515,589.05p for a 45p stake on Littlewoods pools.

Hunt to face public anger  
with Tory counter-attackBy Nicholas Wood  
Political Correspondent

A government minister will today brave public anger over the poll tax in the Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

Mr David Hunt, the Minister of State for Local Government, will spend an hour on the streets of the constituency in a bold attempt to persuade electors of the merits of the community charge — the central issue in the campaign.

His intervention will take place against a background of violent anti-poll tax demonstrations in council chambers



1987 General election: J Heddie (C) 28,644; C St Hill (Lab) 13,990; T Jones (L/AID) 13,114; J Bazeley (Independent C) 836. C map: 14,654.

across the country and allegations that some of the demonstrations are being orchestrated by militants.

Extra police are expected to be present when Mr Hunt and Mr Charles Prior, the Tory candidate, begin canvassing in

Stone. With a new opinion poll giving Labour an eight-point lead in the Conservative stronghold, Tory strategists recognize that safety-first tactics will do little to unsettle their opponents.

They have opted for a counter-attack to dispel public "hysteria" over the charge, which will mean increases of between £55 and £117 for the average ratepayer in the Midlands seat.

Mr Hunt will seek to explain the principles behind the poll tax and the rebates available to the poor.

Tory insiders expect him to "score some points" and promise that the so far relatively sedate campaign will be enlivened by some "raw politics".

Yesterday, spokesmen for the two main parties condemned the violence that had marred town hall demonstrations and led to arrests and injuries.

Mr John Smith, Labour's chief Treasury spokesman, said that while there was genuine popular revulsion against the poll tax, violent demonstrations did not help the fight against it.

He detected the hand of the Socialist Workers' Party.

Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, blamed the ugly scenes on a "rent-a-mob" during a visit to the constituency.

He told reporters: "I think it is a very disturbing and disgraceful sign, particularly when these people who, I am told, are left-wing Militant Tendency people, go from place to place and cause this sort of trouble and disruption."



Mrs Sylvia Heal, the Labour by-election candidate, with Mr John Smith, shadow chancellor, at Stoke-on-Trent yesterday.

Guinness trial  
Accountant 'not told of fees'

By Paul Wilkinson

A Guinness accountant who processed payments worth millions of pounds in secret success fees said yesterday that she would not have done so had she known what they really were.

Mrs Helen McLoughlin told Southwark Crown Court in south London that the invoices she handled were for consultancy services. The trial has been told the money was payment to supporters who helped Guinness to win its takeover battle with the supermarket chain Argyl for control of the Distillers group in 1986.

Mrs McLoughlin said consultancy services were by their nature confidential and she knew she would not be given further details. Mrs Barbara

Mills, QC, for the prosecution, asked: "If you had known such services had not been provided what would you have done?"

Mrs McLoughlin: "I would not have paid them."

One invoice for £5.2 million was to a Jersey company, Marketing and Acquisition Consultants, controlled by an American lawyer, Mr Thomas Ward, who was a director of Guinness at the time of the takeover. Mrs McLoughlin said she did not know Mr Ward was connected to MAC.

Mrs Mills asked: "If you had known this payment was going to him what would you have done?"

Mrs McLoughlin: "I would have had nothing to do with it. He was a director of the

company and he should not get payments like this."

Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chairman and chief executive, and three other City figures have denied 24 counts alleging theft, fraud and breaches of the Companies Act during the takeover bid. Appearing with Mr Saunders are Gerald Rouson, chairman of the Heron International group, Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, and Jack Lyons, the millionaire financier.

Cross-examined by Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, counsel for Mr Rouson, Mrs McLoughlin agreed that she had no reason to query the invoices.

The hearing continues today.

## Technocrats start at age five

By David Tytler, Education Editor

Children aged five will be taught how to run their own companies in lessons about to be introduced in schools in England and Wales in the wake of regulations published by the Government yesterday.

The National Curriculum will require all children aged 5 to 16 to be taught technology, covering domestic science to computers, woodwork to fine art as one course.

Many schools will have to appoint heads of department to run the new course which will ask children to design and sell anything from a car park to a checkout system for a supermarket. Mr John

MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said: "The two components of technology — design and technology and information technology — involve essential skills for pupils in the modern world."

"If we are to meet the needs of the economy and of individuals over the coming decades, we must apply scientific and other knowledge in imaginative ways."

The Government also published the English lessons for pupils aged eight to 16 which insist on the teaching of grammar. Mr MacGregor said: "The English curriculum

builds successfully on that for infant pupils which has been in place since last year."

The compulsory English lessons, being taught to those aged five to seven will apply to pupils aged eight to 13 from this September, and those aged 14 to 16 from September 1992. Technology will be compulsory for children aged five to 13 from this September and for those aged 14 to 16 from September 1993.

*English in the National Curriculum (No 2)* (£5.95 with ringbinder, contents only £3.10); *Technology in the National Curriculum* (£5.95; Stationery Office).

Britain to  
get Honda  
Euro-baseFrom Kevin Reason  
Motoring Correspondent  
Geneva

Honda is to establish a European headquarters in Britain and order a 30 per cent increase in production of its cars from the Rover group.

The headquarters, at Reading, Berkshire, will be the Japanese company's centre of operations for the European Community, handling all sales and distribution networks and co-ordinating production facilities in Britain, Belgium, Italy and Spain. It will create 100 jobs after it opens in April.

Rover is already due to build 30,000 Concerto cars this year for Honda, which has a 20 per cent stake in its British collaborative partner.

Mr Osamu Iida, president of Honda Europe, said that he expected output to be raised to 40,000 next year, enhancing Rover's reputation. The Concerto is the Japanese sister of Rover's successful 200 series and built alongside it at Longbridge, Birmingham.

Honda is also due to start production of 100,000 cars annually in 1992 at Swindon, where it produces engines for Concerto and Rover 216 cars.

Honda disclosed its plans yesterday at the Geneva Motor Show, at which the dispute over whether to limit sales of Japanese cars in Europe continued.

The French Peugeot-Citroën group reiterated demands that present quotas be kept for at least 10 years and that British-produced Japanese cars be included. Britain fears that would slow the pace of Japanese investment.

## Examination appeal

## Foecke 'a top mathematician'

Mr Francis Foecke, denied an honour degree because he allegedly cheated in the examinations, was a first class student, a leading statistician told a tribunal yesterday.

Professor John Ashford, Dean of Science at Exeter University, said Mr Foecke had the "arrogance of a great mathematician".

The scholar, author of 150 books on statistics, told the appeal hearing that he was convinced that Mr Foecke, aged 32, was capable of achieving top marks.

Mr Foecke, an American, has spent four years and £100,000 in an attempt to clear his name and regain the honour degree.

Bristol University does withhold the degree and accused him of cheating, claiming his answers con-

tained too many similarities to model solutions. However, Mr Foecke, of Clifton, Bristol, said he gained his record 13 passes by working 18 hours a day in his final year.

Yesterday, Professor Ashford, aged 60, told the tribunal, held at Senate House in Bristol: "When you are looking to see if someone has cheated you need to know if you are dealing with an idiot or someone with ability."

"From working with Mr Foecke and knowing him personally, I would say he is a first class mathematician."

"I have worked with about 50 PhD students and I would say that Francis was in the top ten per cent."

"I can put my hand on my heart and say he was a first-class student and, I think, terribly determined to succeed

after doing relatively badly in his first and second years."

He added that Mr Foecke had been "exceedingly systematic" in his revision for the examinations.

Professor Ashford said he had been shamed into supporting Mr Foecke by a student who wrote to him about the case.

Professor Ashford said he would never have let Dr John Ryan, who set the model solutions Mr Foecke is alleged to have copied, set examination questions as he was "too inexperienced".

However, the university could not be criticized for its measures to ensure against cheating, or for the approach it had adopted once examiners believed cheating had taken place.

The hearing continues.

## Humberside lives on, commission says

By David Walker  
Public Administration Correspondent

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England has rejected an attempt by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the former environment secretary, to abolish the county of Humberside.

Just before last year's county council election, Mr Ridley directed the commission to rethink an earlier recommendation that Humberside, a controversial creation of the 1974 local government reorganization, should stay. He instructed it to examine outright abolition, paying special attention to local loyalties and sense of identity.

Yesterday, however, after extensive consultation including (for the commission) the unprecedented use of opinion polls, the commission announced that its "interim opinion" was that Humberside should live on.

It said the reason was not because the county was loved by its inhabitants. On the contrary, a majority was found to favour abolition.

The trouble was the people of Humberside cannot agree on what should replace it. When asked for their favoured alternatives, inhabitants divided between joining the adjacent counties of North Yorkshire and Lincolnshire, creating new counties of East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire or some mixture of the new and the old.

The commission is giving Humbersiders six weeks to respond to its latest statement, before making final recommendations. The present Secretary of State for the Environment, Mr Chris Patten, seems likely to rubber-stamp the commission's conclusions.

In its statement yesterday the commission said no one had proved that Humberside, where the Labour Party has a majority of council seats, was anything other than "a suitable framework for effective and convenient local government"; most residents were satisfied with services.

People did, however, still feel strong pulls of loyalty to the counties that predated the 1974 reorganization. The problem now is that such entities as the East Riding of Yorkshire could not be recreated without a comprehensive

redrawing of the local government map, probably upsetting people in other areas.

In their consultations, the part of Humberside lying to the north of the Humber emerged as something of an orphan. Lincolnshire County Council wants to see south Humberside become part of Lincolnshire. However, North Yorkshire does not want north Humberside, which by itself would probably be too small to make a viable county.

The study of local opinion, carried out for the commission by RSGB Ltd, found that 57 per cent of north bankers favoured a new county of East Yorkshire against 34 per cent who wanted Humberside to continue.

The commission wondered whether the county council might solve some of its identity problems if it changed its name, but to what? "To call the whole area 'East Yorkshire' would alienate those on the south bank more than the name 'Humberside'. The name 'Humberside' is important in describing the whole estuarial area, especially in the pursuit of economic development. The commission does not wish to make any recommendations on this issue."

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THE TIMES JAN 1982

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# Please help the children of Ceausescu.

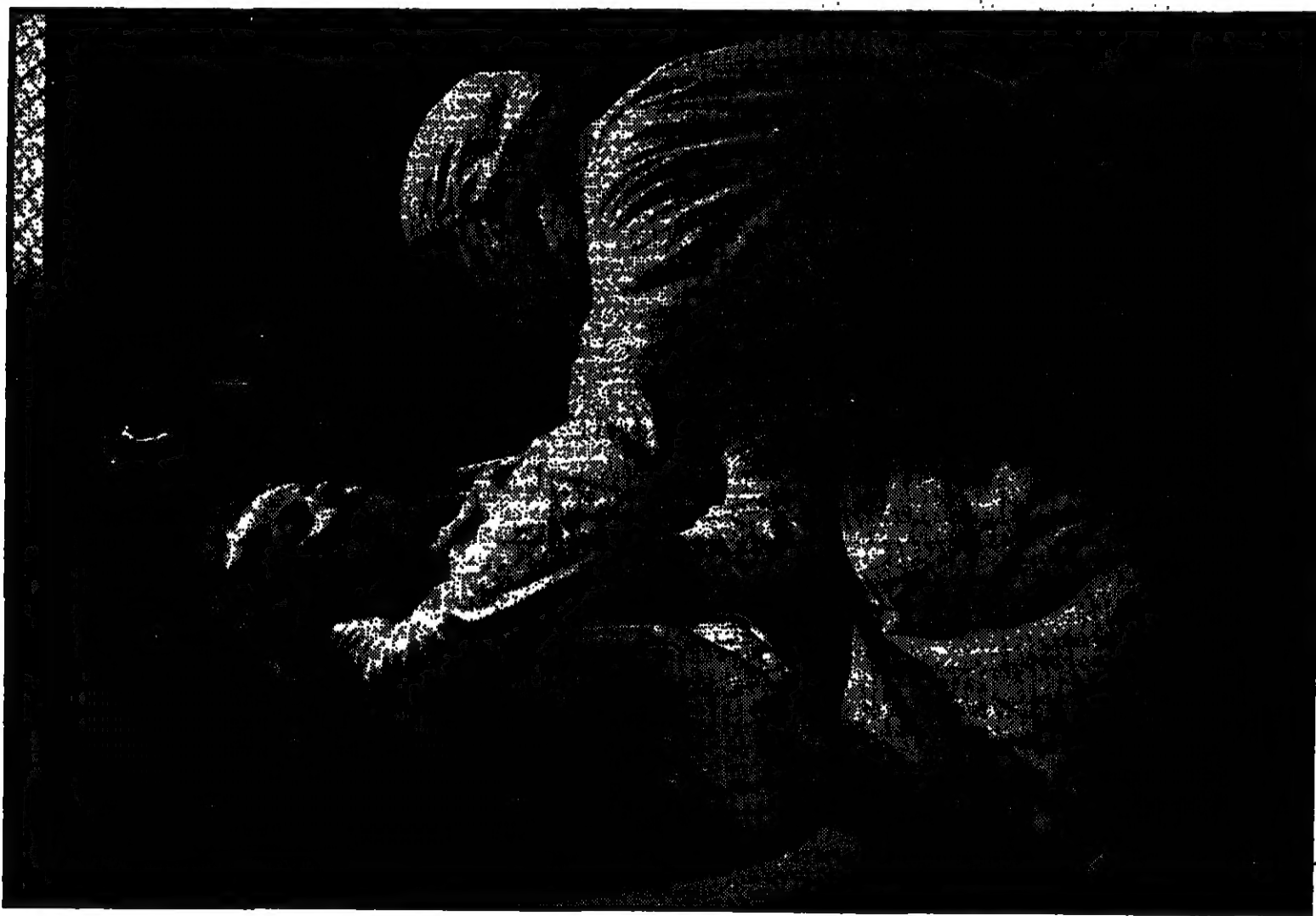
The sight is sickening and terrifying.

In crib after crib lie babies and toddlers who look like old people, their skin shrivelled, their skeletal faces bearing the unmistakable mark of approaching death. These pitiful children at a clinic in Bucharest are AIDS patients, the tiniest victims of the brutal, backward regime of Romania's fallen dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu.

TIME MAGAZINE 19.2.90.

This is just one aspect of the gruesome legacy of Ceausescu's years of misrule.

Contraception, abortion and sex education were outlawed in Romania in a desperate attempt to boost the workforce.



It resulted in thousands of unwanted children, abandoned by parents who could see no way of supporting them in a country where food of any description was already dreadfully scarce.

Vast numbers of the children now crammed into Romania's 205 orphanages are the survivors of back street operations.

Many are severely handicapped

and live in conditions of appalling squalor. Most pitiful of all among these tragic children are those under the age of six who number around 14,000 spread throughout sixty-four orphanages.

(It is estimated that one in four of these children is dying of AIDS.)

There is simply not enough food available to feed any of the children adequately and most suffer from severe malnutrition.

Standards of hygiene are pathetically low due to a lack of proper equipment and facilities.

There is a chronic shortage of staff. By day, there are just four or five nurses for every 100 children and only one doctor and one psychiatrist for every 150-200 children in the orphanages. By night, there are even fewer staff on duty.

Even the most basic essentials such as nappies and plastic sheeting are non-existent, so the children soil the rags they are dressed in and the mattresses of their cots are rotting.

The stench throughout these institutions is overpowering.

Dysentery is common and many of the children suffer from chronic bowel disorders.

Often they are left lying un-

attended in their own excrement. The most severe cases are kept naked because naked bodies are easier to clean.

## How you can help right now.

The Romanian Orphanage Trust was set up by Mary Gibson, a Dorset grandmother, who was so appalled by what she witnessed on a visit to a Romanian orphanage that she vowed to raise £10,000,000 to help ease the suffering and put an end to the misery.

If you will help us right now, we can provide immediate relief for these innocent victims.

There is no bureaucratic red tape to hinder or delay our efforts and no costly overheads to drain away money.

The funds will be used to fly teams of paediatricians and nurses from Britain and to supply basic requirements such as dried milk, food, nappies, plastic sheets and essential medicines.

(To ensure that funds are correctly allocated where needs are greatest, all relief operations will be directed from the United Kingdom and all supplies will be distributed under the supervision of British staff on arrival.)

Please help by phoning a donation on your Visa or Access card now on 031 552 0131, or by sending whatever you can afford to the address on the coupon below.

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## NHS WAITING LISTS

Jill Sherman analyses the College of Health report

## Over one million in queue for treatment in hospitals

More than a million people are waiting for hospital treatment and one in four have been waiting for more than a year, according to a report by the College of Health published today.

The college's *Guide to Hospital Waiting Lists 1990* shows enormous variations throughout the United Kingdom in the size of waiting lists in separate specialties and the length of waiting time.

It urges patients to shop around before the implementation of the National Health Service reforms next April, while general practitioners are still free to refer patients anywhere in the NHS.

Of the 876,800 patients on the waiting lists in England at March 31 last year, 26 per cent of inpatients and 18 per cent of day cases had been waiting for more than a year.

A further 92,169 people are waiting in Scotland, 45,385 in Wales and nearly 26,000 in Northern Ireland, bringing the total to 1.09 million.

The figures include day cases and self-referred cases but exclude those waiting for outpatient admissions. In spite of a series of government initiatives to reduce waiting lists, there was an overall increase of 3.8 per cent for inpatients and 14.7 per cent for day cases in the year to last March.

"The system is inherently unfair because it remains a matter of geographical accident whether a patient who needs a hip replacement, a hernia repair, a cataract or prostate operation will be treated promptly," Miss Mar-

anne Riggs, the college's director, said.

In Leeds West, for example, 46 per cent of patients for ear, nose and throat operations had waited for more than a year. However, in neighbouring Leeds East, no patient had waited that long.

Similarly, in Eastbourne, East Sussex, 40 per cent of people needing cataract operations had been waiting for more than 12 months, while in Brighton none had waited that long. Going private to beat

per cent of the 33,000 patients waiting have needed treatment for more than a year.

A league table for districts is more difficult as some have long waiting lists, with shorter waiting times. The college has also provided figures on the national time to clear the list if no new patients were added.

For example, Hillingdon health authority, in the North West Thames region, has 3,045 patients waiting for plastic surgery, of which 92 per cent have waited for more

waited for an operation.

In another case, an elderly couple who had spent their £4,000 life savings for their husband to have a hip replacement, were contemplating selling their house to pay for a second operation. The surgeon said he would do it next week "if you pay privately".

In a third example, a 39-year-old who had a massive heart attack and had been waiting for 18 months for an angiogram was told by consultants that it would be at least another 18 months before anything could be done because of health service cuts. The college telephoned a neighbouring district and found that the operation could be done within three weeks.

The specialty with the biggest number of patients waiting is general surgery, with 142,202 patients waiting in England alone, followed by orthopaedics with 131,505.

The longest waits are in plastic surgery. Nearly 60 per cent of all patients on the list for plastic surgery after burns or congenital deformity, for example, wait for over a year.

The Government last night maintained that it had made "strenuous efforts" to reduce the time patients waited for treatment. "We have invested £119 million over four years in the waiting list fund, which has enabled hundreds of thousands of extra patients to be treated," a Department of Health spokesman said.

In one case, a young mechanic who had a trapped nerve in his hand was unable to work for three years while he

## Where patients wait longest

General surgery	No. waiting	% waiting 1yr + (%)	Plastic surgery	No. waiting	% waiting 1yr + (%)
Croydon	419	98	Hillingdon	3,045	92
West Lambeth	872	72	Hampstead	346	89
East/West	2,298	52	Camden	138	88
Stokeley	989	51	Richdale	88	85
Hill	1,515	51	Harfordshire	88	82
North Herts	1,415	48	West Lambeth	1,119	81
Oldham	1,581	48	South Line	81	79
West Essex	2,332	46	East Devon	2,132	72
Southdown	2,383	44	North	1,453	70
East Cumbria	1,282	42	Tower Hamlets	565	70

waiting lists is not the only answer, according to the guide. In many cases, people could be treated as quickly if they travelled outside their district for treatment.

The highest waiting lists still tend to be in London, partly because of the concentration of teaching hospitals, which receive tertiary referrals from throughout the country.

Top of the list is North East Thames regional health authority where 85,000 people are waiting for treatment and 38 per cent have been waiting for more than a year.

The shortest lists are in the Mersey region, where only 16

than a year. The list would take 128 weeks to clear.

In nearby Hampstead, however, only 346 patients are waiting for plastic surgery. However, 89 per cent of these patients have been waiting for more than a year and the list would take over four years, or 214 weeks, to clear.

"We continue to regard it as unacceptable that any patient should have to wait more than a year to go into hospital for an operation they need," Miss Riggs said.

In one case, a young mechanic who had a trapped nerve in his hand was unable to work for three years while he

## Cuts, falling bed numbers and staff shortage blamed

Cuts in health services because of financial difficulties, falling bed numbers and shortages of doctors and nurses have all contributed to rising waiting lists, the guide says (Our Social Services Correspondent writes).

City and Hackney Health Authority closed 75 acute beds at St Bartholomew's Hospital last year to help to save £2 million and said it would no longer accept out-of-district referrals for some specialties.

Department of Health figures published last October showed that the number of beds fell by 6 per cent in just over a year and by 21 per cent since 1977, while the number of in-patient cases grew by 24 per cent to 6,600,000 in the same period.

However, in 1987/88, the year that included severe cut-backs, the numbers treated fell to their lowest since 1983 and 16 per cent fewer day cases were seen. In spite of an over-

all increase in the number of nurses in 1987 the total of hospital nursing staff, excluding midwives, fell from 332,111 in 1982 to 331,172 in 1987.

That was partly due to the impact of a reduction in school leavers.

However, staffing difficulties have now been exacerbated by authorities freezing posts so that they can stay within budget. Greater Glasgow health board has had to cut recruitment because of a £12 million overspend.

At the Royal Preston Hospital in Lancashire, the number of nursing posts was cut from the equivalent of 820 full-time jobs to 777, closing 24 beds. The college's guide also points to the inefficient use of operating theatres as a cause of rising waiting lists.

The guide says it is vital that patients are informed if an operation is cancelled.

Government initiatives to bring down waiting lists in the

past six years have failed to have any significant overall impact, although some local schemes have been successful.

The Department of Health first launched a waiting list fund of £25 million in 1986 when 660,000 people were awaiting operations. That led to 144,000 extra cases being treated in 1987/88.

The next year a further 110,000 patients were treated with £30 million from the waiting list fund; this year the fund has risen by £2 million.

Mr John Yates, from the Health Services Management Centre in Birmingham, was asked by the Government to intervene in the 22 districts with the worst waiting lists. His team picked 43 specialty lists, with over 500 people waiting over a year.

Since December 1988, inpatient lists in those districts have fallen by 11 per cent, while the number of long-wait patients has fallen by 16 per cent in the districts and by 26 per cent in the 43 specialty lists.

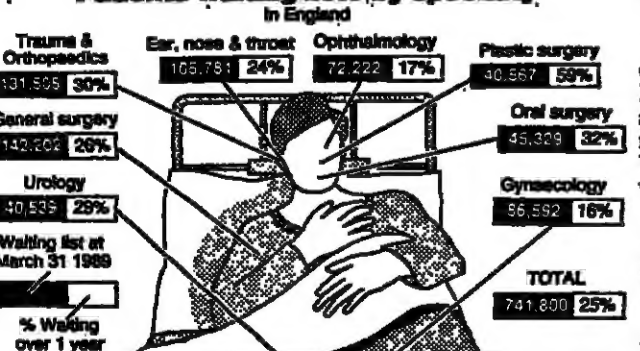
However, in four of the districts - Lewisham, West Lambeth, Great Yarmouth and Shropshire - waiting lists increased. Mr Yates has now been asked to look at the 100 worst specialties.

Other government initiatives to tackle waiting lists include the appointment of 100 new consultant posts.

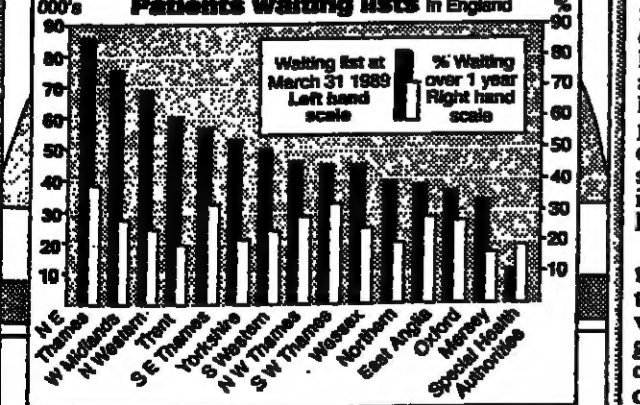
The guide suggests several further improvements: more patients should be admitted on the day of their operation rather than the day before, except for those travelling long distances; some patients are still staying in hospital too long and blocking beds; more patients could be seen as day cases; and patients and GPs should be given more information about waiting lists.

Patients should be told if they will have to wait years for treatment - for example, for varicose veins or plastic surgery - so that if they wish they can start saving to have their operation done privately.

## Patients waiting lists by specialty



## Patients waiting lists in England



## 2,500 patients must be shed

By Jill Sherman and Libby Jukes

A London teaching hospital is to treat 2,500 fewer patients this year, a move likely to lead to soaring waiting lists, in an attempt to save £1.5 million.

Doctors at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, have been told that they treated more patients than they could afford last year and will have to cut down this year.

One option is to close the hospital to all but emergency cases for six weeks at Christmas and two weeks at Christmas. Another alternative is to refuse routine referrals from other district health authorities.

Parkside health authority, now trying to save £4.6 million by April 1991, is also proposing big staff cuts to raise a further £1.5 million. Miss Barbara Young, Parkside dis-

trict general manager, said that compulsory redundancies should be avoided because of high vacancy levels.

Surgeons at St Mary's said yesterday that both moves would lead to thousands of extra patients on hospital waiting lists.

Mr Jonathan Johnson, an orthopaedic surgeon, said that the shortage of beds was already so critical that he had difficulty getting in enough patients to fill the 15 hours theatre time he is allocated.

The Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother surgical unit where he works was originally designed for 56 patients. Now it has only 35 beds.

But the closure of the hospital's admissions ward means that surgical beds are often occupied by emergency pa-

tients. "I ask the patients to telephone the hospital the night before they are due to come in to check that there is a bed for them," Mr Johnson said.

"About 50 per cent have to be turned away at that stage. If we had a day-care centre, I could clear 25 per cent of the unit's waiting list of 700 cases virtually at a stroke."

Over a thousand people are now waiting for trauma and orthopaedic operations in the district and one in eight have been waiting over a year for treatment.

Mr Johnson's team treats four patients a week, although they have enough theatre time for between six and 10.

"We are worried that we will just have to stop performing elective surgery," he said.

## Years of pain and dashed hope

By Libby Jukes

Mrs Heather Smokcum, aged 56, has been waiting for more than two years for a routine "surgical decompression" operation on her right shoulder, injured five years ago in a gardening accident.

Mrs Smokcum is one of 2,000 patients in the Bath district health authority waiting for orthopaedic surgery. There are 1,500 more on the general surgical list, although a grant of £194,000 from the Department of Health should enable operations on 830 of them, who have been waiting for more than a year.

Last month, 189 doctors in the Bath district signed a letter to Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, expressing concern at a decline in standards of patient care as a result of ward closures and difficulties with hospital admissions over the winter.

For months, Mrs Smokcum was treated with steroid injections and manipulation until visiting a consultant at the Royal United Hospital in Bath for an unrelated complaint in February 1986.

Mrs Smokcum mentioned that she still suffered persistent and often severe pain in her shoulder.

She was first called to the hospital for an orthopaedic operation on March 16 1987, but sent home again at the last minute when tests for diabetes proved positive.

"They had hammered my chest to test my lungs and even painted the arrows on my arm, but could not operate until the condition was regulated," Mrs Smokcum said. "But I expected to be recalled within a fortnight."

Six months later, she was still waiting to hear from the consultant surgeon that the operation would have to be



Mrs Smokcum resting her injured shoulder at home yesterday after taking painkillers.

delayed anyway because her husband had become ill with cancer. Mrs Smokcum nursed him until his death in November 1988, and in February 1989 she was offered a place on the stand-by list with the chance of surgery at two hours' notice.

The call finally came at about 9am on 14 February -

1990. Although Mrs Smokcum was visiting relatives in Weston-super-Mare at the time, she managed to return home seven miles away. When she telephoned the hospital she was told to relax with a sandwich and a cup of tea to keep her blood pressure down. Half an hour later, the hospital rang back to say that she was too late. Mrs Smokcum was forced to give up her job as a sales assistant in a clothes shop two years ago because of her injury. She takes six painkillers a day, and is unable to mow the lawn, iron or clean windows. "I haven't been able to have a bath since my husband died," she said.

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# Kohl seeks to sell his timetable for unity

From Ian Murray, Bonn

Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, spells out his timetable for reunification today to the Bonn Parliament and his NATO allies.

He is expecting tough questioning from both audiences, but confident that the process towards unity is under way. The first meeting of the two Germanies takes place in West Berlin tomorrow to prepare for their first joint session with the four Second World War allies in Bonn next Wednesday.

The Chancellor is sure that this "two plus four" meeting will inevitably lead to "one Germany".

Yesterday, he rejected the latest suggestion from Herr Hans Modrow, the East Ger-

man clearly upset at his treatment by Herr Kohl and he criticized the Chancellor for being "dodgy and double-speaking" on the Polish border issue. He was also unhappy about moves towards economic unity.

Despite the Chancellor's promises, there had still been no detailed proposals on monetary union, he said. The process would take time and he urged people to leave their money in their savings accounts and wait.

Meanwhile, the West German opposition Social Democrats (SPD) have decided that they want a referendum of all the German people to be held to decide on the basis of reunification.

Unlike the Chancellor, the SPD wants a united country to have a new joint constitution, approved by the people, rather than a nationwide extension of the present West German Basic Law.

While the Chancellor will tell NATO that a united Germany will remain a loyal member of the alliance, the Social Democrats are now pressing for the creation of a new European peace order, in which both NATO and the Warsaw Pact are dissolved and a new European security system established, incorporating the United States, the Soviet Union and Canada.

Paradoxically, support for the Chancellor's ideas and his Christian Democrats (CDU) is growing in East Germany, while it is perceptibly shrinking in West Germany, where the SPD is becoming more popular while its huge, early support in East Germany is being eroded.

This switch in support appears to be due largely to West Germany's fear of higher taxation and social problems as a result of reunification, along with a growing feeling that NATO is obsolete.

Although West German public opinion is still heavily



United front: Herr Kohl, right, the West German Chancellor, and Herr Genscher, his Foreign Minister, joking at a Cabinet meeting in Bonn yesterday.

Brussels (Reuter) — NATO has cancelled a communications exercise on March 22 to 28 because of the elections in East Germany, which the exercise scenario had designated as a springboard for a Warsaw Pact attack.

man Prime Minister for the next 10 days, to agree to a quick joint treaty guaranteeing Poland's western frontier.

Herr Kohl largely blamed Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his Foreign Minister, for causing all the trouble on the question. He said that he would not agree to a joint treaty until there was an elected East German government after March 18.

Herr Modrow, back in East Berlin from seeing President Gorbachov in Moscow, at least had the comfort of being given a standing ovation by the Volkskammer, holding its last session before the poll.

He reported that the Soviet Union was ready to give all the help it could to the freely elected government, that recognition of the present Polish border was essential, and that Moscow was opposed categorically to a united Germany being a member of NATO. He

in favour of reunification, there is mounting concern about the economic consequences and, after the Chancellor's stand on the Polish issue, there are doubts about his leadership.

In East Germany, it is Herr Kohl's urgency for unity which is attracting voters, who see reunification as the quickest way to the kind of prosperity he personifies.

The SPD, which is seeking to slow down the process — a new constitution will take some time to negotiate — is also suffering in the East

because it wants to block East Germans from emigrating west.

This very point, however, is winning it backing in the West, where the huge number of refugees is already causing problems.

The SPD is also speaking out increasingly against what it sees as an *Anschluss* of East Germany rather than a dignified merger. President Gorbachov also emphasized this in a television interview broadcast in both Germanies on Tuesday evening. "I see how many visitors come from the Fed-

eral Republic who involve themselves in the internal affairs of the DDR already, as if it were no longer a sovereign state," he said.

He repeated that a united Germany could never be a member of NATO and that the Polish border had to be properly recognized by treaty. "Lack of clarity on so fundamental a question does not belong to any serious policy," he said.

Herr Kohl strongly attacks Herr Modrow in an interview published today by *Bild* for delaying the introduction of a

new electoral law, introducing "an economically unfriendly trade union law" and for trying to keep "the notorious Stasi (secret police) under a new company name".

The fact that 110,000 East Germans had fled to the West in eight weeks showed how little the people trusted the authorities in their country, Herr Kohl says. "In 10 days the DDR will vote. Then Modrow's time in office will belong to the past. I don't find it so important, what Modrow says now."

● Soviet approval: Soviet fears of a resurgent Germany are fading fast, according to a poll which shows that almost two thirds of Soviet citizens approve of reunification (Daniel Treisman writes). The poll, commissioned by BBC Newsnight and The Guardian and conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, showed a clear majority in favour of a united Germany in each of the four Russian cities of Moscow, Leningrad, Gorky, and Irkutsk, as well as in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and Tallinn, Estonia.

## Italian flagship drifts off course

From Richard Bassett, Rome

The most turbulent, and probably the last, congress of the Italian Communist Party opened yesterday in Bologna with calls for the Communists to follow the developments in Eastern Europe, lock away their hammers and sickles, and convert themselves into something less dated.

But while the communist parties of Eastern Europe have managed to dress themselves neatly in new clothing in a matter of weeks, even days, the Italian party is set to find the transformation painful, lengthy and destructive.

The flagship of West European communism, proud of its history of independence and respectability, has found the wind of *perestroika* blowing from Moscow less liberating than one might have imagined. Instead of becoming the perfect vehicle for espousing President Gorbachov's reforms, it has collapsed into petty bickering and confusion.

Only a country as remote from the reality of communism as Italy could possess a credible Communist Party with so many factions all proud to support their own variation of Marxism.

The 1,000 delegates gathered yesterday encompass bourgeois champagne Marxists, some diehard Stalinists and a group of old anti-Fascists. The Communist Party leader, Signor Achille Occhetto, has won about two thirds of the party over to its relaunch. But the remaining third is deeply hostile.

For a party whose vote at general elections has fallen from about 35 per cent in 1979 to barely 26 per cent today, this diehard rump could easily break the party as a credible force in Italian politics should there be a split.

Signor Occhetto's supporters pleaded eloquently yesterday for a new party which with a new name could appeal to less traditional Communist voters. "We need women, not workers," one delegate explained yesterday to applause.

Other supporters of the relaunch even demanded that the party be thrown open to Catholics. About 3,000 non-Communist Party members, including even a Jesuit priest, have pledged their support for a new party.

Not surprisingly, this potential expansion of support for a party which at present enjoys nearly one and a half million members is worrying to the other centre-left parties.

Yesterday's opening speeches were directed equally at the "guests" from the Italian Socialist Party.

Yesterday's debates spent some time discussing the new party's name. It was clear from Signor Occhetto that the issue is not whether to have change but how.

## Lenin article boosts Gorbachov

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

The Soviet press yesterday published an official assessment of Lenin which describes him as a pragmatic reformer who was prepared to change course radically if circumstances demanded.

The article came just three days before the opening of a Communist Party Central Committee session that is likely to nominate President Gorbachov to fill the newly created post of Executive President.

The press assessment, approved by the Politburo, is intended to set the tone for Soviet celebrations of Lenin's 120th anniversary in April, but also has more immediate significance. It maintains that the anniversary should not be an occasion for pomp and circumstance but for concentrating attention on unsolved problems.

In a bid to reduce Lenin to

human proportions, it says his views on the present age "should not, of course, be canonized; they need to be developed creatively, with full account of social developments around the globe".

The report also asserts — boldly for a Soviet document — that "Lenin himself would have found it absurd if statements he had made about specific situations were automatically applied to the present day as the final test of truth".

Refuting both those who say Lenin has nothing to teach the Soviet Union today and those who seek a Lenin quotation to explain every development, the document says it is time to save Lenin, the thinker, from the distortion and simplification of his many popularizers.

It also suggests parallels between Lenin's time and the present. Lenin, it says, had the

courage to acknowledge that the policies of ultra-centralized "war communism" were a mistake. "Despite all manner of predictions about the collapse of the Bolshevik experiment," it goes on, "Lenin mounted a creative search for new concepts of socialism, rejecting ... simplistic decisions."

The comparison between Lenin's abrupt change of course and Mr Gorbachov's reform programme will not be lost on Soviet readers — nor will the personal comparison between Mr Gorbachov, the reformer, and Lenin who, according to the document, formulated a definition of socialism as a "social structure made up of civilized members of a co-operative".

"Co-operative" ventures, one of Mr Gorbachov's pioneering attempts to revive the consumer goods and ser-

vices sector, have aroused deep resentment among Soviet citizens because their high prices are widely (though often unjustifiably) believed to derive from profiteering.

The publication of the document at this time leaves Mr Gorbachov's critics, Marxist-Leninists to a man, very little room for manoeuvre.

● LONDON: Five of the six preconditions set by Britain when it agreed in principle to attend a human-rights conference in Moscow in 1991 have not yet been met, a British human-rights group said yesterday (Andrew McEwen writes).

Nine MPs and others, described by the organizers as an "Eminent Persons Group", visited Moscow two weeks ago and found that the only condition fulfilled was the granting of freedom to monitor human rights.

## Andreotti stresses need for American troops to stay

From Susan Elliott, Washington

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Prime Minister of Italy, told the US Congress yesterday he wanted a new Europe to forge closer links with the US and called for continued US military presence in Europe.

Addressing the concerns of smaller European nations, he also urged that a unified Germany remain firmly in NATO and stressed that a transatlantic alliance was more crucial than ever before as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe undergo radical democratic reforms.

"We want to continue building a Europe that is open to the world, not a Fortress Europe as some mistakenly fear," Signor Andreotti, aged 70, told the joint session of Congress in a 25-minute speech in Italian.

He said the Europe of the

future would be "ever ready to collaborate in a spirit of true partnership with the United States, whose military presence in Europe must remain ... as a guarantee of stability and balance".

His diminutive stature at the lectern lacked the magnetic presence of two recent Eastern European visitors to the United States Congress — Mr Lech Walesa, leader of the Polish Solidarity movement, and Mr Vaclav Havel, the playwright President of Czechoslovakia — but he received several bursts of applause during his address.

Signor Andreotti, who was re-elected last year to a sixth term in office, won an assurance on Tuesday from President Bush that the interests of all NATO members, and not only the four major Second

World War allies, would be accommodated in international talks about German reunification.

Italy, with other NATO members such as The Netherlands, Norway and Denmark, had expressed concern that they would be excluded from talks between the US, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

Mr James Baker, the US Secretary of State, addressed their fears on Tuesday during a meeting at the White House with Signor Andreotti when he agreed to meet all NATO foreign ministers on the issue of German reunification.

Signor Andreotti also called in his speech to Congress for US-European co-operation on a range of issues, including environmental problems, the anti-drugs campaign, education and international debt.

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## Honecker 'smuggled cocaine'

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

For nearly 20 years Mr Erich Honecker, East Germany's disgraced Communist leader, smuggled cocaine to West Germany as part of a Soviet plot to undermine NATO defences, according to a *Washington Post* report yesterday.

Mr Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski, the former East German spy master who defected last December, has given his western debriefers "a horrifying picture of top-level Soviet conspiracy with Honecker and his regime to weaken West Germany and the US by putting drugs within easy reach of American soldiers", claimed the respected columnist, Mr Rowland Evans and Mr Robert Novak.

Intelligence sources estimated Honecker's personal profit from the trafficking at \$75 million (£46 million). Mr Schalck-Golodkowski also controlled the country's currency operations and in that role he is said to have masterminded the laundering of Honecker's drug money.

The reports said that Honecker's regime bought cocaine from Latin America, brought it into East Germany through the Baltic port of Rostock, and transported it by truck to East Berlin. It was then smuggled to East bloc agents in West Germany.

As a secondary source, the report also quotes from a forthcoming book by Mr Joseph Douglas, a national security consultant to the Bush administration. Called *Red Cocaine*, it asserts that in 1962 Nikita Khrushchev, then the Soviet leader, "formally extended the Soviet narcotics operation to East European satellites".

## Walesa prepares to take on Jaruzelski

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland is shaping up for the heavyweight battle of the Nineties: Lech Walesa versus General Jaruzelski for the presidency of Poland.

In theory General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the architect of martial law and since last year the President of Poland, should remain in power until 1995. But as the revolutions in the rest of Eastern Europe have gathered speed and overtaken Poland, the sharing of power between communists and Solidarity looks increasingly out of date.

Now, young demonstrators (wearing balacavas and increasingly violent against the police) want Solidarity to clear out the communists.

Their posters say: Causa was shot, Honecker and Zhivkov are behind bars, but Jaruzelski is President. A chant by crowds outside Parliament in "No freedom with Jaruzelski." This is the radical fringe. But mainstream Solidarity figures, such as Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk (who used to lead the underground resistance to martial law in Wroclaw) say: "We are going to have a new President this year." The general himself has indicated that he might be prepared to step down. "I would like only to ensure the passage into a fully stable democratic system," he told a visitor recently. He has, in truth, grown tired in office.

When he became Prime Minister in February 1981, his image was good: a patriot, and a thinking soldier open to controlled reform. Then events skidded out of control and he declared martial law on December 13, 1981.

He suspended, then outlawed Solidarity, and became

the bogeyman of the nation. After years of pointless trench warfare with the Solidarity underground, he decided that the communist party could not rule without Solidarity and, therefore, the whole structure of power had to be changed. Moscow let him proceed with round-table talks. That took a kind of battlefield courage.

Even so the general cannot shed the martial law stigma. For the young, he is a man of the ancient regime. All over Eastern Europe the old leaders

national reforms are being drafted at present and Professor Bronislaw Gremek, head of the Solidarity Parliamentary Group, promises that they will be ready by May next year.

That could prompt new parliamentary and presidential elections. Not everybody in Solidarity favours such an acceleration.

The economic programme — a tough anti-inflation package and a risky move from a centralized to a market economy — requires some stability

is still only 46 and he has become a mature, if sometimes arrogant, leader. Next month Solidarity will stage its own congress and will choose a new leadership. Mr Walesa will have to decide whether he wants to be the elected chairman of a trade union called Solidarity, or the leader of the vaguer Solidarity Reform Movement.

If he chooses the latter, then he will be in a position to stand in a presidential race. But does he really want the job? At present the former shipyard electrician enjoys the pleasant arrangement of power without responsibility. He consults frequently with the Solidarity Government, and with the communists. He lectures generals and policemen, receives foreign politicians almost daily and travels abroad in much the same way as President Havel of Czechoslovakia does.

Yet he is not burdened with the daily clutter that weighs on a head of state. The post of President of Poland is a very constrained one and Mr Walesa's political skill and his intuitive approach depend on operating outside formal institutions, skating over thin ice swiftly.

The prize fight is not just between the two old bruisers, General Jaruzelski, and his former prisoner, Mr Walesa, but also between two concepts of change in Eastern Europe. Should power be shared with the communists even though they are thoroughly discredited and can barely raise an electoral quorum? Or have the arguments of last year, in favour of a stable transition, been outdated by the revolutions of late 1989?



Squaring up: President Jaruzelski and Mr Lech Walesa may be catapulted into a battle for the leadership.



have been ousted, yet the general stays at the top. But for how long?

There are a number of feasible scenarios for displacing him. The first is that he himself throws in the towel. If he does not, the Sejm, the Polish Parliament, could force his hand by amending the Constitution to make the presidential term equal to that of Parliament — four years instead of six years. There would then be parliamentary elections and a new President would be chosen. Constitu-

at the top. And the tension with Germany also demands strong leadership.

President Jaruzelski, with his obvious control of the military, may well be the best man for the time being.

The best bet is Mr Walesa, though he insists that he is not contesting. He has been on the political stage for a decade but



Mutiny raises questions over role of Moscow as diplomats claim that fighting is continuing

## Coup leader 'now back in Afghanistan' after escape

By Mary Dejevsky in Moscow and Our Foreign Staff

General Shanawaz Tanai, the former Afghan Defence Minister linked to the failed attempt to overthrow President Najibullah, was yesterday reported to be back in Afghanistan after flying with his family to Pakistan.

President Najibullah said that General Tanai had fled the country, as he insisted the attempted coup had been crushed after 20 hours of fierce fighting in Kabul.

According to Pakistani officials, at least two Afghan planes landed in Pakistan with defectors, including some senior military officials. General Tanai was said to have escaped by military helicopter.

President Najibullah said in a broadcast on the official Kabul radio: "According to exact information, Tanai fled to Pakistan carrying a lot of US dollars with him."

With hundreds killed and wounded in the Afghan capital, President Najibullah said his forces controlled all military bases in the country.

He added: "I assure you the situation is normal all around the country. The brave Afghan military forces are ready to repel and neutralize all treacherous plots."

However, Mujahidin guerrillas in Pakistan said Afghanistan's important Bagram air base, 50 miles north of Kabul, was still controlled by mutinous troops.

Western diplomatic sources also said that fighting between rival Afghan military factions was continuing in Kabul and two other cities. However, fighting with small arms in the capital appeared to be dying down.

Jets flown by mutinous pilots backing General Tanai came to bomb Kabul but were driven off by anti-aircraft fire, one Western diplomat said.

General Tanai belongs to a rival faction of the ruling People's Democratic Party of

Afghanistan (PDPA) to that headed by President Najibullah. Mr Abdul Baqi Samandari, the Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister, said that the Government had offered a reward for the capture of General Tanai, dead or alive. He was sacked from his post as Defence Minister soon after the coup attempt began on Tuesday.

In Peshawar, the headquarters of the Mujahidin provisional government, resistance sources and Pakistani officials said a Soviet-made Antonov 12 transport plane carrying several top Afghan military officers had landed in north-west Pakistan.

Three Afghan generals and four brigadiers were among at least 12 people on board, the pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press said.

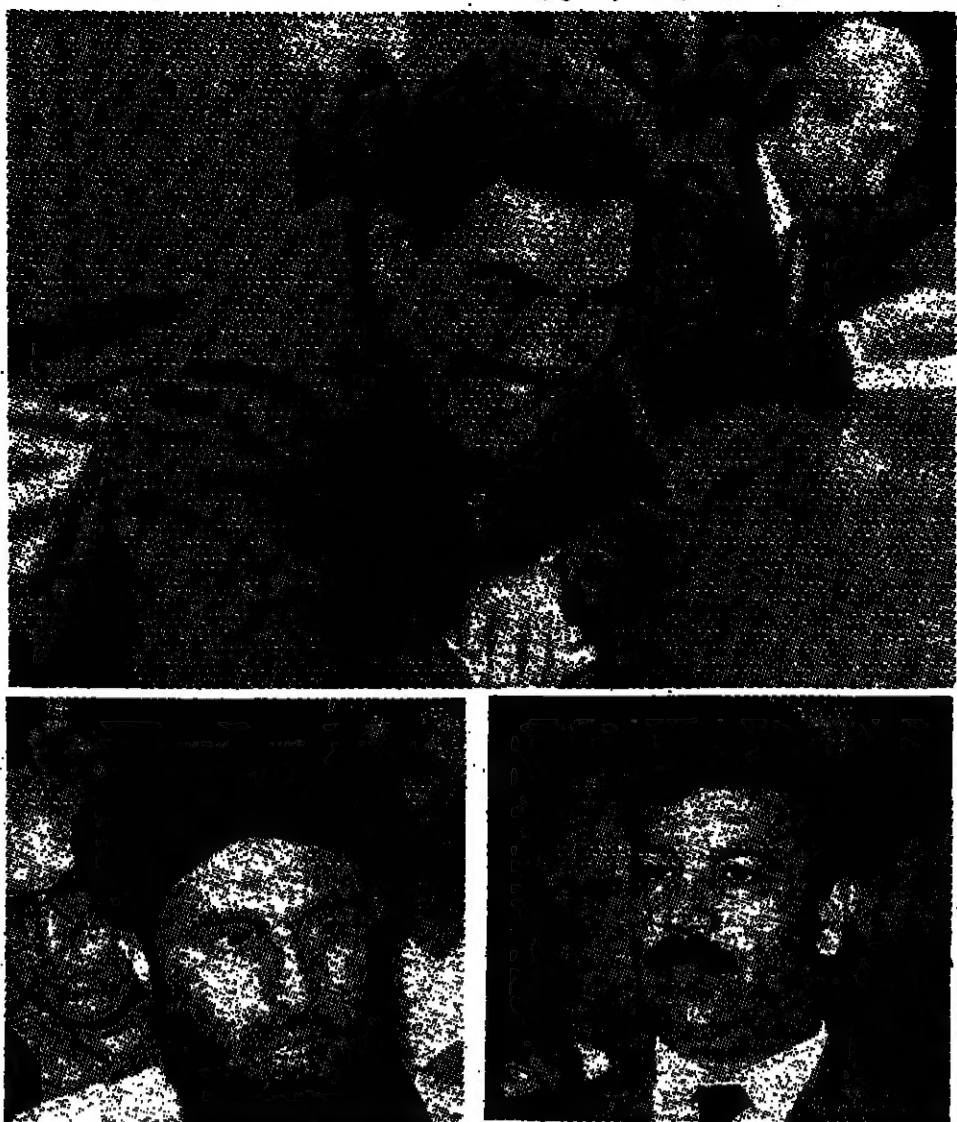
Eight mutineer generals were reported to have surrendered to loyalist forces when they captured the heavily fortified Defence Ministry.

Representatives of the Afghan Government in Moscow condemned the abortive coup as another attempt to thwart the Afghan peace process, and denied that President Najibullah had either requested or needed Soviet assistance to crush it.

Soviet officials meanwhile declined all comment on the coup attempt, a response which contrasted with the extensive reporting of the situation in Kabul by the Soviet news media.

At a press conference held in the Soviet Foreign Ministry's press centre, Mr Sayed Muratova, counsellor at the Afghan Embassy in Moscow, blamed foreign intelligence services for having supported the conspirators.

He would not identify any particular country but, presented with a choice between the CIA and the KGB, said it was highly unlikely to be the KGB.



President Najibullah, top, claims to have crushed the revolt. Below left, Mir Galdubbin Hekmatyar, the Mujahidin leader allegedly backing General Shanawaz Tanai, right.

## Power play could signal Kremlin change of mind

By Anthony Hyman

The fierce fighting during the apparently failed Afghan coup shows the extent of support for the plotters within the Afghan Army and Air Force.

President Najibullah yesterday declared that events during the coup attempt were "painful and catastrophic". But perhaps the greatest loss for the Government is the abrupt disappearance of its hard-earned image as the fighting cruelly exposed the fragility of its hold on power as well as the tensions in its power base, the armed forces.

The ruling People's Democratic Party was increasingly seen as a small but determined group which had staying power against the chaotic and seriously disoriented Mujahidin resistance. The survival of the regime since the Soviet withdrawal almost 13 months ago was partly thanks to enormous Soviet military aid and financial underpinning. But more than anything else, it was because of the performance and apparent loyalty of the armed forces.

General Shanawaz Tanai, aged 39, the Defence Minister, had a long-standing rivalry with Dr Najibullah in spite of his rapid promotion.

The acute vulnerability of

the regime to a coup was never seriously in question. Plotting coups has become almost a way of life for ambitious young Afghan officers since 1973, when King Zahir Shah was deposed. Most of the senior figures in the Afghan Army and Air Force took part as junior officers in the 1973 and 1978 coups.

This is only the latest in a series of coup attempts against the present regime. Earlier ones were prevented by quick arrests and other measures. In these security successes, the role of KGB and WAD, its Afghan equivalent, was always crucial.

One of the urgent questions now facing Dr Najibullah, a former director of the secret police, is whether WAD agents were this time collaborating with the plotters. The secret police is arguably the key elite force at the disposal of the regime, with 60,000 troops and agents, motivated and well trained compared with most units of the conscript-based army.

In December, 1989, more than 100 arrests were made in Kabul, mainly of military officers. Dr Najibullah declared on Tuesday that they would be put on trial this week. At the time of the Soviet withdrawal in February and

March last year, an estimated 300 army officers were arrested, although most were warned and soon released.

This latest attempted coup is likely to worsen relations between Moscow and Kabul, because of the likelihood of Soviet forewarning of — or even approval for it. Given the Afghan armed forces' close links with Moscow, it is difficult to imagine that General Tanai and his associates had not made clear their intentions beforehand to KGB officers and Soviet embassy officials in Kabul.

It cannot be ruled out that the toppling of the Afghan President at this time might be convenient for Moscow. Without changes at the top, there seems little chance of reaching a peace settlement and political stability in Afghanistan.

The Khalqi (masses) faction of the People's Democratic Party, which General Tanai represents, has long been at odds with the dominant Parcham (banner) faction). After the Saur Revolution in April 1978, when Afghan communists came to power, Democratic Party unity lasted less than two months, with Khalqi taking over the regime until the Soviet invasion at the end of 1979.

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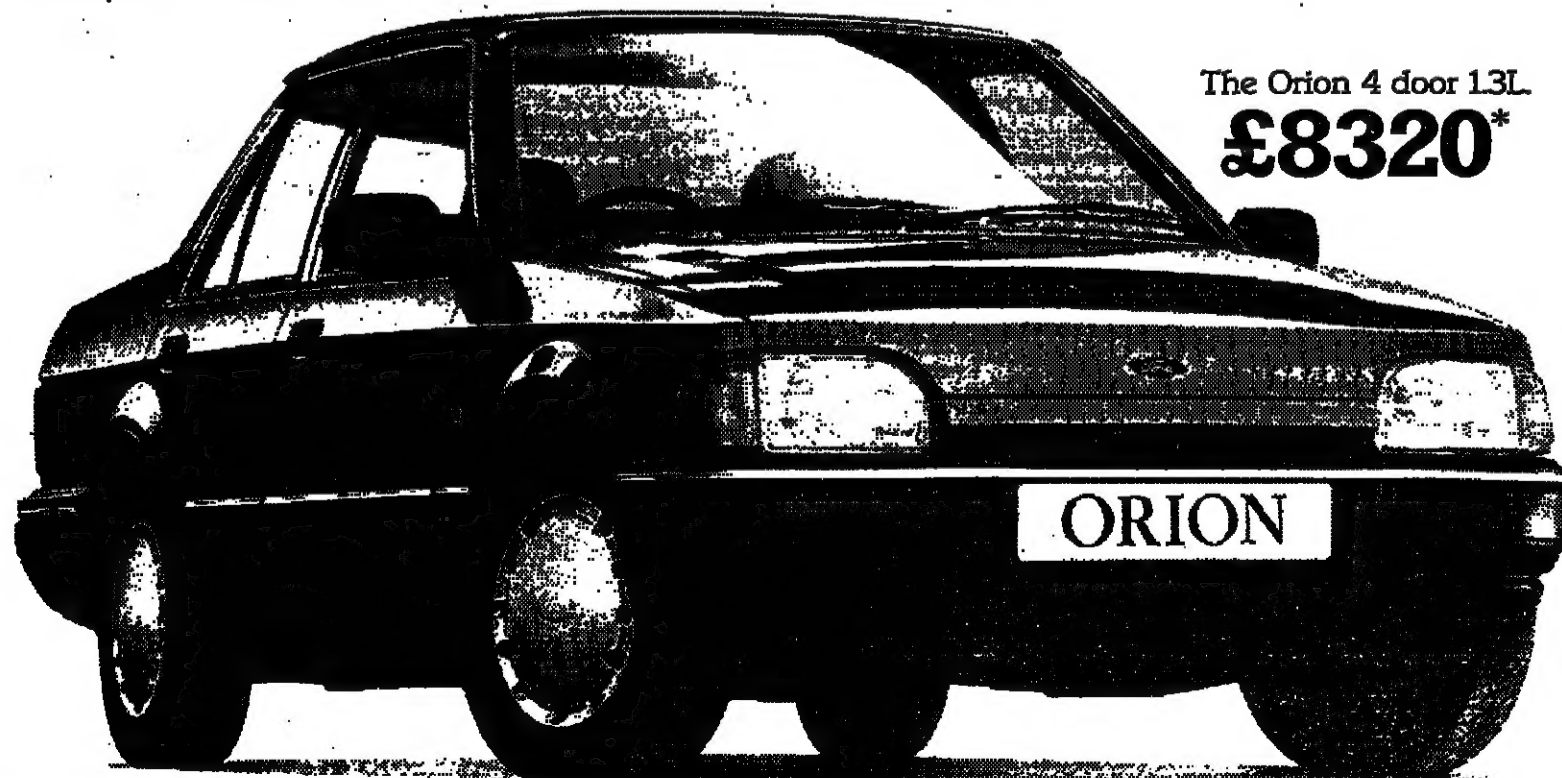
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### WORLD ROUNDUP

## 134 missing in Amazon disaster

Lima (AP) — A disabled riverboat loaded with more than 200 people, mostly children, smashed into a cargo ship and sank in the Amazon, Peruvian police said yesterday. One body was recovered and 134 people were missing. The Andrestio sank on Tuesday night, 90 minutes after departing from Iquitos, a river port 715 miles north-east of Lima, police said. It was carrying 209 people, including crew and passengers, according to dock authorities in Iquitos.

Police said 74 people had been rescued by dawn and the body of a young girl had been recovered. Heavy rain hampered rescue boats and divers searching for survivors and bodies, they added. Most of the Andrestio's passengers were children, their parents and rural school teachers returning from Iquitos to Puritoyacu, a jungle village on an Amazon tributary, after school holidays, police said.

## Punjab Sikhs kill 19

Chandigarh (AP) — Sikh extremists killed 19 people and wounded 38 in a rifle and grenade attack at a crowded market in the Indian state of Punjab last night, police said. At least 10 Sikh gunmen converged on the market street in Abotari and opened fire, a senior officer said. During the shooting, a grenade exploded in the middle of the market, a police spokesman added. He said the men were masked and arrived on foot, and "nobody knows how they escaped". Sikh extremists have killed more than 370 people in the rich northern farming state this year.

## Mugger wins £2.6m

New York — A Harlem man, shot by a policeman while mugging an elderly victim, has been awarded \$4.3 million (£2.6 million) by a jury (Charles Bremner writes). Mr Bernard McCummings, aged 29, and an accomplice were choking and beating the 71-year-old man in a subway station in 1984 when Officer Manuel Rodriguez intervened and shot Mr McCummings in the back, leaving him a paraplegic. He served a three-year jail sentence and sued the policeman on his release. The New York Transit Authority said the award was outrageous, and would appeal against it.

## Journalist shot dead

Ankara — Memories of terrorism which triggered an army coup 10 years ago returned to haunt Turks yesterday after a prominent journalist was shot dead in Istanbul (Rasit Gurdilek writes). Cetin Emec, a leading official of *Hurriyet*, the largest selling national newspaper, was killed in his car by two gunmen who escaped in a stolen vehicle. He was the second public figure to be killed within five weeks. On January 31, Professor Musammer Aksoy, a leading jurist and a scholar committed to the defence of secularism against Islamic fundamentalism, was shot at his home.

## Israel debate delayed

Jerusalem — The Israeli Cabinet yesterday adjourned till Sunday the final showdown between Labour and Likud over US proposals for peace talks with the Palestinians (Richard Owen writes). Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, announced that the Labour Central Committee would convene on Monday and would withdraw from the coalition if there was by then no acceptance of the US proposals by Likud. Israelis of all persuasions insisted yesterday that the latest showdown was the most severe to affect the fragile coalition formed in December, 1988.

## Oil fouls Bondi beach

Sydney (AFP) — Bondi beach was closed yesterday after a three-mile oil spill had left stinking black sludge along its white sands. Nearby Tamarama and Bronte beaches were also closed after the 550-yards wide slick was driven ashore by strong winds on Tuesday night. It was hoped to reopen Bondi and Bronte beaches today and Tamarama tomorrow.



# Rafsanjani raises hopes for Beirut hostages release

From Juan Carlos Guncio, west Beirut

President Rafsanjani of Iran, in a statement that increased hopes for the release of Western hostages held in Lebanon, yesterday said he was confident that they will be freed. But there was no sign in Beirut that this would happen soon.

A Lebanese source with access to information regarding the crisis said yesterday: "Yes, there is some movement, but not a single indication of an early release."

Furthermore, it appears that the current atmosphere of optimism only involves American hostages. Although President Rafsanjani mentioned Britain's efforts to win the release of the British captives, his assessment seemed to be exclusively focused on the Americans.

Since the current wave of promising reports on the hostages began last month, there have been no signals from Tehran or Beirut regarding Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy, Mr Jack Mann or Mr Brian Keenan.

"My feeling is that the issue of the hostages is moving towards a solution," the Iranian leader was quoted as saying by IRNA, Iran's official news agency. He refrained from making any reference to a timetable though the *Tehran Times*, the newspaper which reflects his views, has suggested twice that at least some of the 17 hostages could be freed this year.

President Rafsanjani's words came amid fresh speculation in Beirut that Iranian officials were trying to contact representatives of the kidnappers.

A Shia Muslim militia source said Iranian envoys wanted to "set up a mechanism for dialogue with all the parties involved" but warned that the entire process will take time, "perhaps weeks, perhaps months".

Another source within the Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian "Party of God" which is believed to know, if not control, the jailers of the foreigners, dismissed rumours about an "imminent" release this month.

The source, a clergyman with direct access to the leadership of the organization,

chuckled when asked if Mr Terry Anderson, the American journalist and the longest held hostage, could be freed on March 16, the fifth anniversary of his abduction.

President Rafsanjani's announcement at a news conference in Tehran crowned a series of unprecedentedly strong indications that Iran is more than ever willing to help solve the crisis. Western analysts believe that Tehran, which has been sending positive signals on the hostages since February 22, is eager to mend relations with the West to reconstruct the country after eight years of war with Iraq.

Group's denial: A pro-Iranian Muslim group holding two Americans captive in Lebanon yesterday ruled out any imminent release of Western hostages (Reuters reports).

"We will continue to rub America's nose with our feet. There is not a single tendency for the release of hostages," the Revolutionary Justice Organization said in a statement sent to Beirut's independent *an-Nahar* newspaper.

## No qualms for the sole woman at remote Falklands base



Flight Lieutenant Beck and the camouflaged Mount Kent radar dome, one of which is to be made into a gymnasium.

## Views and food are both tops

By Michael Evans, Mount Kent, Falkland Islands

The one woman at probably the most isolated of Britain's military outposts, Mount Kent in the Falkland Islands, is Flight Lieutenant Joanne Beck, aged 28 and single, who is in charge of one of the watch-keeping teams that monitor radar information in the operations centre.

"Mount Kent is a good unit but four months (the normal Falklands tour of duty) is enough. Eight thousand miles is a long way from home," she says. Home for her is at Bellingham, Northumberland. She joined the RAF five years ago and has no qualms about sharing a mountain perch with 46 men.

The outpost, perched 1,500ft up on top of Mount Kent is bitterly cold and often endures gale-force conditions which recently lifted a Gurkha bodily into the air. The small RAF radar unit, monitoring the skies for Argentine raiders, looks down on some of the famous battlegrounds of the 1982 Falklands War. Port Stanley is in the distance.

The view from Flight Lieutenant Beck's bedroom is of a rockface but others, like

Sergeant Tom Sangwin, the senior NCO, enjoy a spectacular outlook. He wakes up every morning with a view that takes in Estancia Mountain, a rather bleak treeless valley, and Berkley Sound, where ships often shelter.

When the wind is gusting at 80-90 mph and the thick bands of low cloud blanket out the view, the 42 men and Flight Lieutenant Beck of 303 Signals Unit and the four male civilians who share the base with them feel as cut off from the rest of the world as it is possible to get. But no one is complaining.

The reasons are difficult for a casual visitor to understand, especially when he has to ascend the mountain in a Volvo BV206 tracked, all-terrain military vehicle which has no respect for comfort as it grinds its way at 10mph up the often fearfully steep and slippery peat track carved out between the rocks and boulders. It takes at least half an hour to reach the top.

During the conflict, a small group of SAS men, equipped with powerful binoculars, stayed hidden in a cave just

below the top of Mount Kent, where a strong Argentine unit was dug in, and radioed messages to British HQ on movements in Port Stanley. The spot is called SAS Point.

The Volvo driver said: "This may not be the top of the world but it seems like it."

Today Mount Kent is one of three mountain-top radar sites in the Falklands - the others are on Mount Byron and Mount Alice. At each the units count themselves lucky. First,

they have each formed a close-knit "family", everyone knowing each other, as they do in small villages.

Second, these isolated sites are considered a far better alternative to the huge, purpose-built Mount Pleasant garrison, 30 miles out of Port Stanley, which accommodates about 1,000 soldiers and airmen, kept apart by a "buffer" block of officers and sergeants.

Also the food is better. The first prize in a recent charity

fund-raising event was dinner for two on Mount Kent.

The operational side focuses on the Marconi Type 97 digitalized radar which has a range of about 260 nautical miles, covering most of the distance from Mount Kent to the nearest Argentine airfield at Tierra del Fuego. Although there are two golf ball-shaped camouflaged radar domes at the site, only one is now used. The other is to be turned into a gymnasium.

## Iraq-Syria row colours Bazoff trial

By Hazhir Teimourian

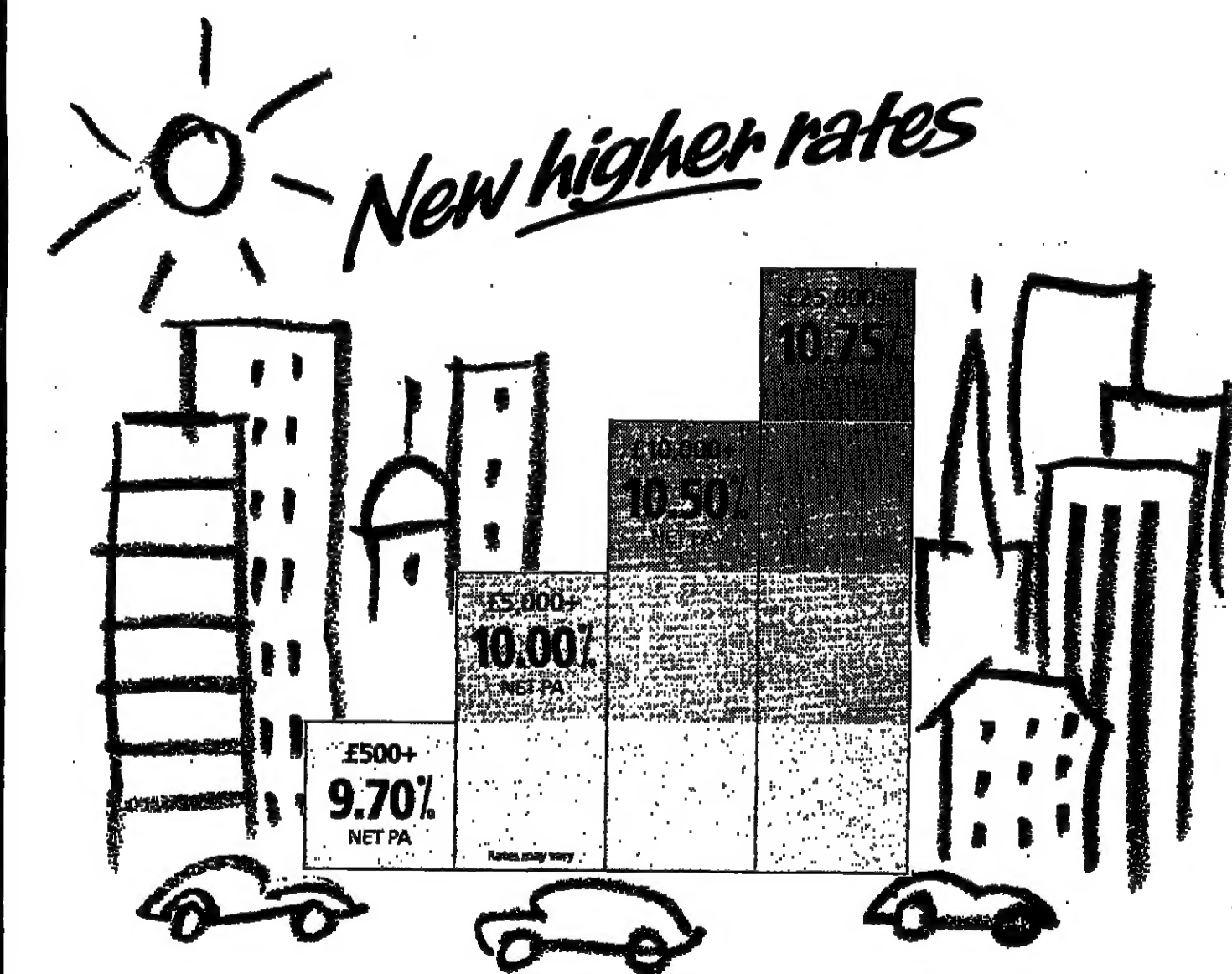
The fate of Farzad Bazoff, the *Observer* reporter who is due to go on trial in Baghdad today accused of spying for Israel, has become the subject of a dispute between Iraq and Syria over which two rival wings of the Socialist Arab Renaissance (Baath) Party rule.

In Baghdad yesterday the daily *Al Baath*, a mouthpiece of President Saddam Hussein's Government, accused President Assad of Syria of ordering his "propaganda organs to adopt Bazoff's cause". The newspaper said it

did not find it surprising that Syria should support "a confessed Zionist spy", a reference to a "confession" that Mr Bazoff made to his captors.

Iraqi experts said the propaganda war raises fears of a stiffening of any sentence if he is convicted.

Mr Bazoff was arrested last August during a trip to Iraq to cover local elections. He is known to have investigated an explosion at Iraq's ballistic missile research complex, south of Baghdad, which killed about 700 people.



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## Threat to 'homelands' as violence spreads

From Gavin Bell, Pretoria

As the foundations of apartheid crumble, violent unrest is sweeping South Africa's nominally independent tribal homelands and threatening the imminent collapse of the unpopular bantustan system.

Rioting spread yesterday from Ciskei to Bophuthatswana, where seven people were reported killed and hundreds wounded in clashes with territorial security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas from armoured vehicles.

President Lucas Mangope declared a state of emergency in four districts.

A similar clampdown was imposed in Ciskei this week, after South African troops and police intervened to protect government buildings and key installations from mobs.

As in Ciskei, where an army officer who staged a coup last weekend is calling for reintegration in South Africa, the demonstrators in Bophuthatswana were demanding an end to their illusory independence.

The violence flared after an estimated 50,000 people converged on a magistrate's court in Garankuwa township, near Pretoria, to demand the immediate resignation of Mr Mangope. He has resisted calls for reintegration, saying the patchwork of seven separate tracts of land which constitute his "nation" would remain independent "for the next hundred years".

Within minutes of Bophuthatswana security forces ar-

riving on the scene, pitched battles broke out and spread throughout the township. As police helicopters circled the area, a huge pall of smoke spiralled from burning government buildings, supermarkets, and vehicles set alight as barricades.

Homes and businesses belonging to suspected "collaborators" of the Mangope administration were also attacked. At the height of the clashes, a hospital superintendent said that his staff were treating up to 100 casualties.

Blase (AP) - The Military Council which took charge in Ciskei on Sunday said a council of state had assumed presidential and parliamentary powers. The National Assembly and the Executive Council had been dissolved.

ties an hour. Relative calm was reported in the afternoon, but the situation remained tense. Similar rioting in Ciskei this week left at least 27 people dead and almost 300 injured. Protest marches have also been taking place in Venda, another of the four homelands adorned with the paraphernalia of sovereignty.

Ominously for its President, Mr Frank Ravele, policemen have joined strikes by civil servants and teachers.

The unrest is spreading to black townships within South Africa, notably Katlehong on the East Rand and Khutsong

in the western Transvaal. At least 28 people were injured in Katlehong yesterday when riot police fired shotguns to disperse thousands of residents demanding lower rents, electricity tariffs.

Secret war: A former South African security policeman has described how he and his colleagues waged a clandestine war against the African National Congress by kidnapping, assaulting and murdering suspected members and sympathizers of the organization.

Almond Nofomela was testifying yesterday before a judicial commission of inquiry into the alleged involvement of covert police and military units in 71 unsolved murders of political activists.

His account, first made in affidavits late last year, precipitated the "death squad" scandal which has led to demands in Parliament for the resignation of General Magnus Malan, the Defence Minister.

Nofomela said his first target was Mr Griffiths Mxenge, a civil rights lawyer, who was hacked to death outside a sports stadium near Durban in November, 1981. The officer commanding the operation was Captain Dirk Coetzee, who has since fled the country and joined the ANC in Zambia.

In Nofomela's next mission, a suspected ANC member was abducted from Soweto, severely assaulted, and never seen again.

## Long-suffering New York calls in its 'worst cabbie'

From Charles Bremner, New York

It takes some doing to earn the title, among 30,000 cabbies of the worst taxi driver in New York. On no subject do New Yorkers shower more unprintable language than on what passes for their taxi service.

But the authorities have nominated Mr Vehbi Gunduz and are taking steps to revoke his licence.

Mr Gunduz, aged 34, has notched up an unusually rich tally of transgressions, even by the standards of local taxi driving. According to the Taxi and Limousine Commission (whose initials denote Tender Loving Care to all non-New Yorkers), Mr Gunduz has been the subject of 88 separate summonses over the past five years and been convicted of breaking TLC rules 119 times.

The infractions range from over-charging and reckless driving, to verbally abusing passengers and expelling them from his cab. His typical misdemeanours, said the TLC, include charging \$15 (£9) for conveyance between adjacent terminals at Kennedy airport and throwing the suitcases of unwelcome fares on to the road.

Mr Gunduz has, however, a champion, in the shape of Mr

Michael Stone, his lawyer. The driver, conceded Mr Stone, is "an individual who apparently has many, many problems", but at least "he has never attacked a member of the public".

That defence is accurate,

who has taken over the TLC with a brief to get tough. Under his draconian new rules, a cabbie may now lose his licence if he is convicted three times of using violence or harassing his passengers. It took Mr Gunduz just three days to rack up the requisite violations.

The driver appears today before the "taxi court", an overworked institution which metes out frontier justice to wayward drivers at a pace of about 400 cases a day. Among recent cases that exceeded even the hair-raising norm, one Pakistani driver indignantly justified his assault on a woman passenger. In his country, he said, "women are not allowed to speak disrespectfully to men".

Clashes of culture are at the root of the trouble. The majority of drivers now are immigrants from Third World countries, many of whom have little grasp of English and almost no knowledge of New York. For instance, among the city's licensed drivers there are 3,000 named Singh and 37 Amarjit Singhs. Often a working knowledge of Arabic, Haitian or Russian is required to get to a chosen destination.

Mr Gunduz has fallen foul of a crackdown ordered by Mr Jack Lusk, a former driver,

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## US accuses Libyans of poison gas production

By Martin Fletcher in Washington and Michael Knipe

The White House announced yesterday that Libya has secretly resumed production of chemical weapons and called for "vigorous" international efforts to force Colonel Gaddafi to back down.

Mr Martin Fletcher, President Bush's Press Secretary, said evidence showed that chemical weapons were being produced at a plant in the Libyan desert near Rabta, about 60 miles south of Tripoli.

"We are very seriously concerned about this development. Rabta is dangerous, and becoming more so," he said.

"We have expressed our serious concern to various

nerve gas have been manufactured at the Rabta plant and that the plant is now moving towards full-scale production. West Germany has corroborated the allegation.

The Reagan Administration whipped up an international outcry when it first learned of the plant's existence in 1988, and Colonel Gaddafi was forced to suspend its operations, although he insisted that its purpose was to make pharmaceuticals.

The plant, built with the help of the West Germans and other West European nations, lay dormant for a year, but in late 1989 American intelligence received reports that production of mustard gas had restarted.

The DIA believes it might have produced some 30 tons of mustard gas and possibly a small amount of the nerve gas Sarin, and that another newly-completed building is for putting the gas into containers which can be put inside bombs.

The West German Bundestag's foreign affairs and economics committees have expressed concern.

Herr Reinhard Kramer, of the West German Greens party, said the plant was believed to have produced enough poison to arm 1,000 shells.

Libya has reportedly intensified its efforts to buy the chemicals required for poison gas manufacture on the world market, and Mr Fletcher called for co-ordinated international action to prevent such purchases and to force Colonel Gaddafi to close the plant down.

The Bush Administration has led efforts to achieve a global ban on chemical weapons.

Libya yesterday denied the allegations. Jana, the Libyan news agency, said in a dispatch monitored in Rome that an unnamed "official source" at the Libyan foreign ministry had "disclaimed" ABC reports on chemical weapons production in the "Rabta medicine factory".

governments. The international community should step up its efforts to deny Libya the ability to continue operating the plant.

Asked what other steps the US might take to halt the plant's operation, Mr Fletcher said that nothing was ruled out. He repeated that answer when asked about the possibility of military action.

In 1986 President Reagan ordered the bombing of Tripoli in reprisal for alleged Libyan terrorist acts.

The White House statement was based on an assessment by the US Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), understood to say that small quantities of mustard gas and

## Fuel barge blazes after New York blast



The Cibro Savannah barge, carrying more than four million gallons of heating oil, burning fiercely in New York harbour after it exploded and broke in half while moored at a petroleum facility off Linden, New Jersey, shooting smoke and flames

1,000ft into the air and slightly injuring the two people on board. The cause of the explosion on Tuesday, which could be heard several miles away, was not immediately known (Reuter reports). Coast Guard officials said the blaze was brought

under control within hours and there was only slight leakage of fuel into the harbour. They nevertheless closed a 10-mile section of the harbour. The accident happened soon after the barge was loaded at the terminal, witnesses said. Oil spills in New York

## Zimbabwe throws Rhodes off the streets

From Jan Rasmussen  
Harare

The Zimbabwean Cabinet committee on place names, eight years after being appointed to look into the relics of colonial history hanging brazenly from the lamp-posts, has finally delivered.

Yesterday hundreds of workers in Harare and nine other municipalities were unscrewing street signs from 150 main roads and replacing them with new ones.

Cecil Rhodes has had his name removed from main highways of six municipalities, replaced variously by the heroes of nearly 100 years of black resistance against white rule, including Mbuya Nehanda, hanged by the British in 1897 for leading a revolt against the white settlers, and Jason Moyo, the guerrilla leader killed by a Rhodesian bomb in Botswana in 1977.

Mr Enos Chikwore, the Minister of Local Government, said that the changes had been made to "eliminate all offensive and objectionable colonial names and to honour our fallen heroes".

Included in the apparently "offensive" category are Dr David Livingstone and Sir Winston Churchill. President Mugabe now has his name gracing the street signs in eight municipalities.

# Nil. Zero. Zilch. Nowt. Nought. Nothing.

## An explanation of Ford's new finance rate on Escort and Orion.

From February 9th until March 15th you can take advantage of interest free credit on all Escort and Orion models. So you'll find it's never been easier to buy the car you want. As you can see from the table, Ford Credit also offer a range of other finance plans, giving you a greater choice than ever of how to pay.

	ESCORT 1.3 L 3 door	ESCORT 1.3 LX 5 door	ORION 1.3 L	ORION 1.3 LX
Cash Price* (including delivery)	£7775.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
<b>0% (APR nil)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.50	£4289.50	£4160.00	£4410.00
12 Monthly Payments of	£323.96	£357.46	£346.67	£367.50
Charge for Credit	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Credit Price	£7775.00	£8579.00	£8320.00	£8820.00
<b>3.9% (APR 7.5%)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 50%)	£3887.50	£4289.50	£4160.00	£4410.00
24 Monthly Payments of	£174.61	£192.67	£186.86	£198.08
Charge for Credit	£303.14	£334.58	£324.40	£343.92
Total Credit Price	£8078.14	£8913.58	£8644.40	£9163.92
<b>6.9% (APR 13.4%)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 33%)	£2565.75	£2831.07	£2745.60	£2910.60
36 Monthly Payments of	£174.65	£192.72	£186.90	£198.13
Charge for Credit	£1078.15	£1189.99	£1154.00	£1223.28
Total Credit Price	£8653.15	£9788.99	£9474.00	£10043.28
<b>7.9% (APR 15.1%)</b>				
Initial Payment (Minimum 20%)	£1555.00	£1715.80	£1664.00	£1764.00
48 Monthly Payments of	£170.53	£188.17	£182.49	£193.45
Charge for Credit	£1965.44	£2168.96	£2103.52	£2229.60
Total Credit Price	£9740.44	£10747.96	£10423.52	£11049.60

These Low Rate Finance Plans are subject to credit approval and apply to Orion cars and Escort cars and Estates registered between February 9th and March 15th 1990 and which are subject to Conditional Sale Agreements arranged by participating Ford dealers and underwritten by Ford Motor Credit Company Limited, The Drive, Brentwood, Essex CM13 3AR. Applicants must be over 18 years of age and credit worthy. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Please note various factory fitted options and Ford's optional warranty (Extra Cover) are available at extra cost.

\*Maximum retail prices as at February 22nd 1990 including delivery. Delivery is to dealer premises with exception of Channel Islands and Isle of Wight when a further charge will be made.

We've also just reduced the maximum retail price of the LX to the previous L price. The price of the L itself has now been reduced by £500.\*

And don't forget that, as part of Ford's new Aftercare package, every new Ford comes with one year's free RAC membership.

Supplies may become short because, in this case, no interest is bound to create great interest.

So make sure you see your Ford dealer soon. He will be happy to give you written credit quotations.

\*Compared to maximum retail price prior to February 22nd 1990.



For a catalogue or the address of your nearest Ford dealer call the Ford Information Service free on 0800 01 01 12.

The Escort and Orion.



## Gadaffi dismisses tax cut demands

By Our Foreign Staff

The people of Libya gave their parliament a touch of *glasnost* — a demand for lower taxes and free health care — but it was not quite what Colonel Gaddafi had in mind.

After the General People's Congress, which formulates policy based on the views of local assemblies, raised the issues the colonel responded: "As the Americans say, there's no escape from death and taxes. I don't believe the Libyan people don't understand these things, for them to say there shouldn't be taxes."

Colonel Gaddafi, proclaimed the infallible leader by the legislators earlier this week, criticized corruption and nepotism in the administration. He warned them: "You won't get to paradise the way you are going... if we carry on like this, we will be colonized again."

Two secretaries (ministers) resigned on Tuesday after dismissing the demands as unrealistic. The colonel took the administration's side and attacked those who for-

mulated the views of the local assemblies, known as Basic People's Congresses, into resolutions.

"This is not what the people said. It's inconceivable that they should show such ignorance... these are the words of certain people," he said. Local assemblies had proposed that the income tax rate for the highest bracket be cut from more than 60 per cent to 15 per cent.

"So you're all rich, are you? Thank God, there's no one poor. Otherwise you would be saying 'Raise the taxes, raise the duties'. I can't believe people said such ridiculous things," Colonel Gaddafi said.

He mocked the assemblies in Zouara province for suggesting the Government both abolish and maintain stamp duty. "You may well laugh. It is farcical," he said.

The dispute over demands for free health and education led to a heated constitutional debate because in theory the congress cannot amend the decisions of local assemblies.

## Iran nuclear power

Nicosia (Reuter) — The Soviet Union has agreed to build two nuclear power plants in Iran, the Iranian news agency, Irna, quoted Mr Mohsen Nourbakhsh, the Finance Minister, as saying. Mr Nourbakhsh said the agreement was included in a wide-ranging protocol signed on Tuesday which also covered natural gas exports to the Soviet Union, building of dams, other power stations and agricultural and engineering projects.

## Aquino attack

Manila (Reuter) — Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Philippines opposition leader accused of involvement in a coup attempt, has blamed President Aquino's Government for rising prices, devalued currency, energy and water shortages, and widespread corruption.

## Fish protest

Madrid (Reuter) — Fishermen from north-western Spain arrived in Algeiras to reinforce a blockade of southern ports by more than 150 vessels demanding action against Morocco's "arbitrary" interpretation of its 1988 fisheries treaty with the EC.

## Drugs charge

Jakarta (AP) — Prosecutors in central Indonesia are seeking a 15-year prison term and a 5 million rupiah (£1,600) fine for Christine Heung, aged 25, a British subject, on a charge of importing 2.6lb of marijuana into Indonesia.

## Bride price

Kuwait (Reuter) — The Government is offering £2,000 cash grants and £4,000 in cheap loans to Kuwaiti courtship couples who marry — to bring the non-Kuwaiti population below 50 per cent by the year 2000.

## Pilot strike

Paris (Reuter) — Striking airline pilots have grounded two-thirds of Air France's medium-range flights and domestic traffic.

## Algeria poll

Algiers (AP) — More than 20 parties will contest Algeria's first multi-party elections on June 12.

## Keeping pace

San Francisco (AP) — Skippy, a once-lethargic, seven-year-old red kangaroo at the San Francisco Zoo, now has a heart that doctors hope keeps her hopping with the help of a £5,000 donated pacemaker.



# I am truly sorry, Browne tells MPs

A full apology from Mr John Browne (Winchester, C) was heard in silence by MPs at the start of a debate on the select committee of the House of Commons on the failure of Mr Browne to declare his business interests.

Mr Browne was called at the start of the debate on a motion to suspend him for 20 days and made a "sincere apology" though he denied any deliberate wrongdoing. He also declared that he had had any deliberate intention to mislead the House.

He said that he was truly sorry for the misery he had brought to his family.

Mr Browne said that considerable pressures had been brought to bear on him to discuss the report previously, but he had resisted them. He had also rejected the option to make an earlier personal statement as it should look like an attempt to pre-empt the

debate. In coming to a judgement, he asked that the House of Commons should put out of its mind the press, radio and television coverage which had been sensationalized and untrue in the light of the findings.

"I recognize that seven or eight years ago I failed to register properly all my interests. Since I was first elected, I have tried always to apply all the rules of the House as I understood them, and properly to declare my interests," he said, adding: "Whenever I have spoken in debate I have sought to declare my relevant interests."

"I have on occasion refrained from voting, as with the Barclays Bank Bill, when I felt that there was a potential conflict with a financial interest I have."

"I ask the House to consider the report against that background. I cannot honestly say that I am

happy with the investigation procedure."

He then turned to the two complaints on which the committee had recommended further action.

First, the matter of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency. Some eight years ago his company Falcon, in which he had declared an interest as a director, had a contract with a Saudi agency that required no parliamentary lobbying of any kind.

"I did not declare an interest because the work did not involve Parliament in any way. There is no general obligation to disclose the names of clients."

Having already declared an interest in his company it had not occurred to him that rule 13 (7) applied to him as a director in the commercial business of his company. "I have discovered that I am not alone in this interpretation," the select committee

had accepted this uncertainty in recommending that rule 13 (7) should be clarified.

"I naturally accept entirely the committee's recommendation and I apologize for failing to disclose that interest."

"The committee also determined that I had not declared the client relationship with the Saudi Agency because of a question asked of the Prime Minister in 1982."

"I could not possibly have known that I would be called to ask the question. It was only a supplementary question. The committee accepts that I was not asked to put a question. The committee also accepts the question made no difference to my fee."

He had asked the question, the answer of which was predictable, because, like most other MPs, he wanted to encourage inward investment into the UK. "I accept the

judgement of the committee and apologize sincerely for the omission."

Second, the complaint related to a company called Selco East and a businessman Mr Charles Chidley. "These events relate back approximately eight years. I must tell the House I have never had any kind of contractual or financial relationship with him. This was confirmed by Mr Chidley himself."

He (Mr Browne) was seeking only to back British companies that were facing intense foreign competition. "I had no financial interest in doing so and therefore do not consider I had an interest to declare."

His company, Falcon, had an agreement with Selco East, through which Falcon was paid £200 a month for some nine months for general advice work and banking introductions. "It did not involve any parliamentary lobbying." After looking

## Members 'must be seen to act honourably'

Mr John Browne's acts and omissions did not measure up to his responsibilities, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, told MPs when moving a motion to suspend the Winchester MP from the service of the House for 20 days.

Speaking immediately after Mr Browne's statement, Sir Geoffrey said that MPs would have listened with considerable personal sadness and with a deep sense of the seriousness of the situation.

It fell to him to undertake the painful burden of launching this painful, but most important debate. He hoped they would be able to use this melancholy occasion positively.



Mr John Browne, MP for Winchester, and his wife, Elaine, on their way to the House of Commons yesterday.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's main motion was that the House should enforce the findings of the Select Committee on Members' Interests in respect of the allegations against Mr Browne, of failure to register an interest, and accordingly to suspend him for 20 sitting days, including suspension of his salary.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) selected all the amendments to that motion. The first, by Mr Donald Thompson (Calder Valley, C) would omit the suspension; the second, by Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) would substitute a reprimand by the Speaker; the third, by Mr Jeremy Corbyn (Leigham North, Lab), would call on Mr Browne to resign; and the fourth, by Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab), would make the suspension three months.

The committee's findings were on 10 separate counts. It found no substance on five and, on three, recommended that no action be taken. On two, it found that Mr Browne was at fault and had recommended that the House should consider action.

It had referred to failure to declare his interest in a payment to an agency of a foreign government, Saudi Arabia, of a little over \$88,000. The committee found that he should have declared both his client relationship and the foreign payment.

It also dealt with his failure to

register his interest in a Lebanese company while lobbying ministers and officials on their behalf, although a payment of £1,600 out of a proposed retainer of £2,600 a year — was made to him.

The committee found beyond reasonable doubt that he did have a client relationship which influenced his parliamentary action and conduct as an MP and which should have been declared or registered.

"MPs must not only act honourably. We must be seen to act honourably. We must be, and we must be seen to be, above suspicion."

"One of those is to ensure that any personal financial or other interest is so managed and so disclosed that it never is in conflict, or is perceived to be in conflict, with the fundamental obligations and responsibilities of a member of this House."

"It is, in my opinion, clear that Mr Browne did not succeed in fulfilling that obligation."

"Some seem to think that he deliberately concealed his interest. Others more charitably, having heard him today particularly, may think it was no more than a misjudgement or an oversight."

"Either way, it must in my view be the case that Mr Browne's acts and omissions did not measure up to his responsibilities. He has today acknowledged that judgement and apologized in that respect."

It was true up to a point that, as some said, the penalty was as much on him, but the motion would not prevent Mr Browne from acting for his constituents outside the Chamber.

Suspension would mean that he would be declared from the precincts of the House. Suspension, by definition, limited in duration and was reasonably well precedented.

As many as 21 MPs had been suspended in the past 43 years.

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith (Wealden, C), chairman of the Select Committee on Members' Interests, acknowledged Mr Browne's apology, and acceptance of the report's findings.

intervened to say Mr Browne had been treated as if he were an accused, but unable to cross-examine, produce witnesses in his favour or discover what other papers were considered.

Dr Cunningham said that he was perfectly prepared to accept that it might have been just that Mr Browne's judgement about his obligations was wrong.

He (Dr Cunningham) was pleased that no motion to expel Mr Browne had been put down, he certainly would not have voted for it. "It would not have been commensurate with the nature of the problem, and that kind of judgement is for the electors of his constituency, not for MPs."

The rules were not onerous for MPs. They were a minimal requirement, and probably past being ready for review.

As Mr Browne had been found to be in clear breach of the rules, and this was a serious matter, it would render the whole business of the register inoperable, if not a laughing stock outside the House, if MPs were simply to take note of the report and to leave the matter there. The public would not understand that.

"So I think the right course of action, speaking personally, would be to support the motion to exclude Mr Browne from the House for a period of time."

He also supported the motion calling on the select committee to review these matters. Standards and requirements in local government were already well ahead of the requirements placed upon MPs.

He was pleased that the House was considering this matter in a mood of some magnanimity. "There is nothing worse than a sanctimonious mob on occasions like this."

It must have taken great courage for Mr Browne to apologize unreservedly and fully in the terms that he had. He had accepted the committee's report and, no doubt, would accept the decision of the House.

Mr Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside, C) favoured Mr Thompson's amendment.

He said that Mr Browne had been pilloried unmercifully and unjustifiably in the national press. He and his family had been through a living hell, and had suffered enough.

at it now, he understood that the relationship between Mr Chidley and Selco East was so close, that the consultancy agreement with his company should have been declared in the register.

"I accept the committee's judgement concerning this and I apologize. My failure to disclose these interests was due to misunderstanding of the rules which no one can fairly say are wholly clear."

Indeed, a motion was before the House inviting the select committee to consider a further definition of assets and liabilities.

"I had no financial reason for failing to declare these interests and never intended to mislead the House. I am truly sorry for my mistakes and the misery I have caused my family and the embarrassment I have brought to this House and my constituency."

within the clearly defined and commonsense rules and could only consider specific complaints relating to registration and declaration of interests.

It could not go on a fishing expedition, nor consider matters more generally, relating to an MP's conduct.

The Register of Members' Interests was not a gross invasion of privacy nor a challenge to an MP's honour. If an MP obtained a financial benefit, he owed it to his colleagues, the public, the minister or government department to disclose what his interests were.

They might not influence him in the very least. In 99 per cent of cases they probably would not, but it was good sense and good manners to register.

The suspicion of motives could be extremely damaging to the House, its reputation and its members. The register in its present form had served the Commons well.

Mr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, said that in many respects he could understand better than most the misery that Mr Browne must be feeling. Speaking in a personal capacity, he said there was no question of Mr Browne's being brought before a court. There was no question of his having done anything unlawful.

Mr Neil Hamilton (Tatton, C) believed this was exaggerated and the actions of MPs often misunderstood. But it was the time to look afresh at the scope of the register.

The select committee warmly welcomed the opportunity to do so. The committee thought it would be right first to complete its assessment on the implications of lobbying, but that should not take too long.

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## House of Fraser takeover

# Opposition accuses Ridley of abandoning the public interest

MPs on both sides expressed grave concern at the decision of Mr Nicholas Ridley to take no further action in the House of Fraser takeover case.

The Opposition spokesman referred to fraud on a grand scale and accused Mr Ridley of abandoning the public interest, expressing surprise that the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry had made only a brief statement about the 750-page report.

Mr Ridley, explaining his three main responsibilities, said that first he had to decide whether to publish the report. That he had now done, as soon as possible after he had been informed by the prosecution authorities that they had withdrawn their objections to publication.

"Second, I had to consider whether to apply to the court to disqualify any director under Section 8 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act, 1986. I have concluded that it would not be in the public interest to do so. Anyone who

reads the report can decide for themselves what they think of the conduct of those involved.

"Third, I also have responsibility for decisions on whether to refer mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. That responsibility was fully discharged by my predecessor (Lord Young of Graham).

"He had six months from July 1988 to consider the report and decide whether to refer the matter. He concluded in November 1988 that a reference to the commission would not be appropriate.

"The House of Lords held that that was a proper decision. I cannot reopen the decision taken at that time. We have since taken steps in the Companies Act, 1989, to make it a specific criminal offence for anyone knowingly or recklessly to mislead the competition authorities.

"No other matters require action from me. I have passed the report to all those authorities concerned with

enforcement and regulation so that they may consider whether to take action under their various powers."

Ms Marjorie Mowlam, Opposition spokesman on the City, expressed astonishment that, on an issue of this importance, Mr Ridley had made a statement of under two minutes. They were talking about fraud on a grand scale.

It was extraordinary that the DTI was taking no action despite the conclusions of the 750-page report that the Fayeds "dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, business interests and their resources to the Secretary of State, to the Office of Fair Trading, to the press, to the House of Fraser board and to their advisers."

Was Mr Ridley seriously telling MPs that there was to be no action against the Fayeds themselves, the supporting cast, the bankers involved, the solicitors?

Was no action to be taken against anyone who was engaged in the perpetration of, according to the

report, a "massive fraud" against this Government?

"Now we know that the deal was cleared by the then Secretary of State in only 10 days when the allegations, now found to be true, were known to him and were made with considerable vigour at the time. What is the explanation?"

Why was there no acknowledgment in Mr Ridley's statement of the final responsibility that his department must carry for clearing this fraudulent takeover?

The Secretary of State had clearly abandoned the public interest, not just by his failure to act, but by the manner of his doing so in his pathetic statement.

Mr Ridley said that any question of criminal prosecution was a matter for the Attorney General, who had decided that no prosecution should be taken.

As for the other people she had mentioned, the report had been sent to the Law Society and to the Bank of England. Those were the regulatory authorities. "It will be up to them to decide whether they wish to take any action."

Mr Paul Channon (Southend West, C), a former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, asked why Mr Ridley could direct MPs to any page of the report in which criticism was made, or culpability alleged, of the Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, whose advice ministers at DTI took, or ministers at the DTI.

Mr Ridley said that nowhere in the report were there any criticisms of the Director General or ministers.

Mr Tony Nelson (Chichester, C) asked why was it not a serious fraud to lie about who was taking over from whom.

If the criticisms in the report did not provide sufficient justification for action, it must surely make mockery of much of company law. Some disavowal was needed, rather than taking people off the board. Mr Ridley should make it hurt where it did hurt.

Mr Ridley said that the DPF and

the Serious Fraud Office were responsible for deciding whether to prosecute and had decided not to do so. "I cannot go beyond my powers in this matter."

There were some lessons for some of the authorities, particularly in the City, which he hoped would be learnt.

Sir Peter Tapsell (East Lindsey, C) said that the Secretary of State was the regulatory body who controlled the behaviour of directors and companies. He was astonished that Mr Ridley was not taking action to disbar the directors of the House of Fraser.

Mr Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) said that MPs did not understand the conceivable matters of public interest prevented Mr Ridley exercising his own statutory obligations.

Mr Ridley said that there were no outside shareholders in the House of Fraser company.

Leading article, page 15  
Report details, pages 20 & 29

## Labour 'cannot be trusted on defence'

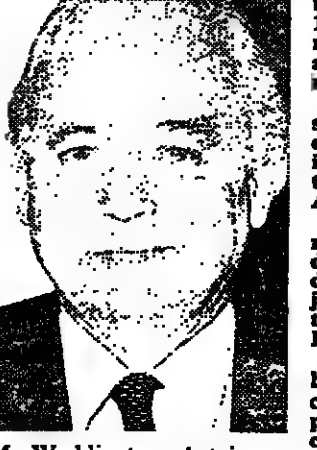
The Labour Party's hostility to the removal of special powers to combat terrorism was sharply attacked by Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, during a late night debate on Tuesday.

Before Mr Waddington's 227 votes to 136 — Government majority, 91 — for an annual order to continue the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, he said that on matters of defence from within or without the Opposition could not be trusted.

The powers, allowing for terrorist suspects to be detained for up to seven days without charge, were described as "unacceptable in a democracy" by Mr Roy Hattersley, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs.

He said that the Government had chosen to let the fact that it involved a clear breach of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Opening the debate, Mr Waddington said that, during last year, the nation had witnessed 62 further killings in Northern Ireland, including the



Mr Waddington: Act is an essential part of our defence.

murder of 23 members of the security forces. There had been the attack at Deal, in which 11 soldiers had been murdered, and other incidents.

"Irish republican terrorism continues to pose a deadly threat to the armed forces and members of the public alike. The ... Act forms an essential part of our defences against that threat."

He was asking the House to renew the powers to hold terrorist suspects for up to seven days because it was crucial to the operational effectiveness of the police in these difficult cases.

"The Act has been in existence for 15 years. We are certain that without it the work of the security forces in combating terrorism would have been more difficult and less effective and that the appalling toll of casualties would have been greater still."

"As time goes by, we are more, not less, resolved, to defeat terrorism. Any sign that the determination of the citizens of the United Kingdom who believe in the rule of law is weakening

## Hurd rejects Tory's appeal for lifting of sanctions

An appeal by a Conservative backbencher for the lifting of all sanctions by Britain on South Africa was rebuffed by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, at question time.

He told MPs: "We will maintain our policy of encouragement and pressure on the South African Government to bring about an end to apartheid, giving a measured response to progress as it occurs."

The appeal was made by Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C), who went on to ask whether it was government policy to give taxpayers' money to Mr Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC).

Many Conservative MPs would find that policy "somehow repugnant" because the ANC was still in favour of the armed struggle and Mr Mandela still rejected the lifting of sanctions which would create the conditions whereby peaceful reform could take place.

Mr Hurd replied that the

Government was consulting MPs on whether to set up a public body, outside government, to help support groups or parties in South Africa, and in Eastern Europe, in the move towards democracy.

Its emphasis for South Africa was on peaceful dialogue to help to get that going.

Mr Desmond Anderson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, described as one of Mr Hurd's "crosses" the perception among allies and in Africa that the Prime Minister shared the view of Mr Carlisle.

With the memory of his troubles at Dublin still fresh, would he not try to persuade her to give a clear undertaking that "we shall not break any more of our legal international obligations in respect of sanctions?"

Mr Hurd said that he had broken no legal sanctions. It would be

السلامة



# Win a store and lose a name

## THE TIMES PROFILE

MOHAMED FAYED

1928: Born Alexandria, eldest of three sons of teacher  
1953: Works in Saudi Arabia as employee of Adnan Kashoggi  
1954: Marries Kashoggi's sister Samira, one son, Emad ("Dodi")  
1956: Formation of first recorded Fayed company in Alexandria  
1964: Harbour works in Haiti. Absconds with \$100,000, according to report  
1975: Joins board of Tiny Rowland's Lorrho (now using the name Al-Fayed), leaves next year after disagreement  
1978: Buys Hotel Ritz, Paris, marries his Finnish second wife Helmi at about this time (four children)  
1985: Fayed buys majority holding in House of Fraser  
1987: Government sets up inquiry into acquisition of House of Fraser  
1989: Leaked extracts from inquiry report printed by the Observer

It is not the shortest entry in this year's Who's Who, but it may well be the one with the greatest number of untested questions reverberating behind the curt minimum of disclosure. Yet controversy raises its head even in the four brief lines of the volunteered history of Mohamed Fayed, listed under the name "Mohamed Al-Fayed". The entry claims that he was born in January 1933.

But official records in Egypt indicate that he was born four years earlier, according to the monumental 752-page report — published yesterday by the Department of Trade and Industry — into the facts surrounding Mr Fayed's acquisition of Harrods in 1985.

What if a tycoon in his prime has been modest about his age? A man is only as old as he feels, and arguably he is as rich as he feels as well. Mr Fayed is in a position to feel rich beyond the wildest dreams of most of us. But the report casts doubt on far more than his date of birth. It gives official endorsement to many of the doubts so insistently circulated in recent months by Mr Tiny Rowland over claims which Mr Fayed and his brothers, Salah and Ali, have made about their origins and their wealth.

A colourful and exotic life-history, founded on a series of misleading statements and breathlessly embroidered by glamour-mongering in some corners of Fleet Street, has been torn to tatters, and replaced by a tale less glamorous, less credible, but at least as colourful. In places it is still deeply obscure, and may for ever remain so.

Whatever private chagrin the owner of Harrods may feel over the report's conclusions, he is not one to rage openly. He is used to facing the world with a smile, which may sometimes become tight, but is seldom in public seen to vanish from his lips. In private, it can be different. The report describes how the mask slipped one day in 1984 when according to Sir Edward du Cann he became "another man... foul-mouthed and vindictive".

The way things have turned out, Mr Fayed can afford to leave rage to Mr Rowland, even though in many ways the report vindicates Mr Rowland, in his passionately tenacious and immensely expensive vendetta against the Fayed brothers over their acquisition of the House of Fraser, which owns Harrods. The inspectors conclude

that the brothers could not have mounted such a large bid at the time from their own resources, and that they failed to disclose the true source of the £615m used in the bid, as they should have done under City rules.

If Mr Rowland had not persisted in the campaign which has entertained the City for so long, this might never have come out. But this is a fruitless victory for him, since he is left no nearer to his main object, which was to reopen the battle for Harrods that he lost in 1985.

Mohamed, the eldest of the three brothers, is a man of many secrets. He moves inconspicuously between the 10 or so homes he owns in five countries, and rigorously avoids publicity. Until he secured control of House of Fraser, he made little public mark, and probably preferred it that way. As soon as the limelight picked him out, reporters were supplied with a few details, sketching the image of a long-established dynasty of cotton and shipping barons, with international interests capable of generating cash and to spare for the Harrods bid.

As pressure for more information continued, the family dropped more and more hints, slipping out the picture and making it more circumstantial, and therefore easier to check. Two wholly incompatible biographies progressively took shape. One was of a dynasty used to hobnobbing with sultans at the Ritz in Paris, with extensive interests in land, industry and luxury hotels, and a score of ships. The boys had

British nannies and Mohamed was sent to the British-administered Victoria College in Alexandria, where "he was caned and stuffed full of crumpets by Oxbridge-educated masters".

The alternative biography emerged as reporters began to check the record at source. The report finds that as the truth came out, the brothers sought to obscure the facts with threats of legal action and personal attacks on reporters.

The truth is that their father, Mr Ali Ali Fayed, was a primary school teacher, living in a poor quarter of Alexandria in a lane described as "extremely dark and narrow and unpaved".

After leaving the ordinary local school, the young Mohamed worked as a sewing machine salesman at a salary of less than £10 Egyptian a month. But he was soon taken up by Mr Adnan Kashoggi, then based in Alexandria but planning to open a furniture import company in Saudi Arabia. Mohamed was put in charge, and became, in Mr Kashoggi's words, "the star of the business". He also married the boss's sister, Samira.

In 1957 Mohamed and Mr Kashoggi parted company (the marriage did not survive the business breach). Far from suffering from the upheavals in Egypt in the Nasser years that followed, as he claimed, Mohamed was well-placed to take commercial advantage of them. Later he moved to Dubai, in the lucrative role of

middleman between the sultan and British contractors.

Sometime in the 1970s he shed four birthdays and added the prefix "Al-" to his name. Salah and Ali shed eight years and 10 years respectively at about the same time, but only intermittently adopted the prefix. Mohamed explained to an American court in 1986 that "Al-" was a title denoting the head of the family. In fact, it denotes nothing of the kind. According to one British journalist, the brothers operate as a team: "Mohamed makes the money, Ali manages it, and Salah spends it."

Perhaps the most significant contact was made in about 1983, when Mohamed became a negotiator for the Sultan of Brunei. By now, he was a wealthy man by most standards, but the sultan was one of the richest men in the world. The inspectors became convinced that it was through Mohamed's links with him that the Fayed brothers became able, in 1985, to find the hundreds of millions needed to buy House of Fraser.

Why the Fayed brothers were so untruthful in their romancing is a mystery. If suspicions had not been raised by the easily disproved untruths about their early lives, doubts about more recent events might never have gained currency. As a tale of enterprise and opportunism, the true story is far more remarkable than the false one. A reporter who has seen Mohamed at home and speaks highly of his devotion towards his young family, says: "If he had told the truth about his origins frankly from the start, I would have felt it did him all the more credit."

Probably the brothers felt impelled by the outsider's need to impress, and did not appreciate how bright a glare of publicity would fall on them after the Harrods deal. Mr Rowland, was also an outsider, who had suffered from the prejudice of the British as a young man of German origin in the war, and has worn the chip on his shoulder ever since. Both sides must have seen ownership of Harrods as a symbol of success and acceptance.

The greatest irony of all is that it was the distaste of ministers and the Monopolies Commission in 1984 towards the outsider Mr Rowland, with his un-British vehemence and bawling tenacity, that sidelined his bid for Harrods, and left the way open to rivals of a different caste.

George Hill Sold to the man with the smile: Mohamed Fayed outside Harrods, the symbol of success and acceptance



## A flavour of old Russia

It is the wine drinker's dream: top quality vintage wines made in the Crimea and once destined for the table of the tsar. Saved, surprisingly, by order of totalitarian Joseph Stalin, they were later concealed from Hitler's stormtroopers. Now they are destined for the wine sale of the century, taking place at Sotheby's, in London, on April 2.

Thirteen thousand bottles, mostly desert wines, will serve as a poignant curtain-raiser to a sale in the same week of a dossier detailing the circumstances of the Romanov family's murder. Red port, the official drink of the tsar, will be sold in lots of three, offered with estimates of up to £3,000. Lacrima Christi, described by Mr David Molyneux-Berry, Sotheby's wine expert, as "unbelievable" to taste, will be offered in similar quantities for £450 to £900.

All are offered in their original bottles, 60 of them emblazoned with the tsar's seal. The overall estimate is £500,000, but it could go much higher. Why are the Russians selling? They need the hard currency. Also, staff at the present-day Massandra winery want to establish a capitalistic price scale for their products on the world market, and to use the money to buy new equipment.

Mr Molyneux-Berry first heard about the existence of the winery 15 years ago, through a tip-off from a bureaucrat. Negotiations for a sale were difficult and protracted — he endured a prolonged initiation rite during which his hosts took out inferior wines and asked "What do you think of these?"

— but gradually he pieced together the strange history of the place. Until the last century, the south coast of the Crimea was virtually inaccessible to travellers, being cut off by mountains. Then, in the 1820s, Count Mikhail Worontsov, a governor of the area, constructed a road over the mountains, and built his holiday home there. An estimated 20,000 serfs died bringing thousands of tons of black earth down from the mountains to form the foundations of his palace.

In the 1890s the tsar, Nicholas II, built Massandra, the imperial vineyard, in the area and employed Prince Golitsin, the pioneer of Russian champagne and fortified wines, as winemaker.

It is this palace which is the source of Sotheby's consignment. When Mr Molyneux-Berry was allowed to sample the superior Golitsin wines, he said: "They were the best I have ever tasted." He believes that because of the painstaking care taken over their manufacture it would be "commercially suicidal" to try to produce their equal today.

The cellar at Massandra was walled up by the White Russians during the revolution, but found by the communists, who decided to continue production. They employed a master named Yegorov, who had learnt his skills from Golitsin. His grandson, Yuri, is winemaker today.

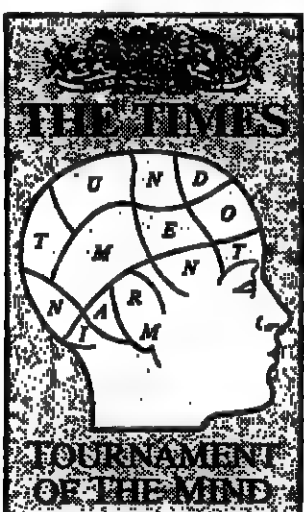
In 1941, apprehensive about the advance of the Germans, the staff at Massandra removed thousands of bottles, one by one, to safe places throughout the Soviet Union. The rest was emptied into the sea at Yalta. Then, as the tide of war turned, the entire stock was brought back, and small quantities were consumed at the Yalta talks between Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin.

Mr Molyneux-Berry is mystified why Massandra continues today to produce wine "as though for God", although he suspects it might be fortifying the spirits of some of the 2.5 million Soviet citizens treated every year at the Crimea's sanatoriums.



Sarah Jane Checkland

**artfile**  
A weekly look at the art world



## Tournament of the Mind

● Round Three of the Tournament helps you on the way to winning £5,000. The winning school wins a computer.

● The Collins English Dictionary and the Encyclopaedia Britannica are the only reference works to be used.

### DIAGRAMS

Obey the following rules to solve this puzzle. Start at the bottom left-hand corner and work your way up to finish in the top right-hand corner. You can move vertically and horizontally from square to touching square but never diagonally. You must add the value of each square to your running total as you go, but you cannot collect more than nine numbers on any attempt. What is the lowest total which can be attained?

5	3	8	6	9
6	8	6	7	5
7	9	9	3	6
5	2	4	4	7
4	1	5	8	2

### VERBAL

Four longer words, which are all the names of birds, can be formed by adding the small words together. You must use all the small words only once. The four long words comprise one 10-letter word, two seven-letter words and one 11-letter word. What are the four longer words?

WALL THROAT TAIL GALE IN NIGHT GAD PIN BLUE

### LOGIC

In this puzzle you have to find the way to reach "F", in the top left-hand corner. The letters and numbers in each square are highly significant to permitted movement. Start on the bottom line, on any of the six squares, but only one square logically reaches "F". If you land on the base of an arrow you must follow it to its point. Upon which square must you start?

F	1D	5D	3R	2L	5L
4D	2R	2R			5L
5R	3D	2R	2U	2D	4L
3U	3U	1U	2R	4L	2U
		1R	3L	1R	4L
3U	3R	4U	3U	5U	1U
2U	6U	2U	3U	4U	1U



### ROUND 3 ANSWERS

Cut out this coupon and keep your answers until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons published in The Times

### PUZZLES

Answer 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Answer 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Answer 4 \_\_\_\_\_

### MISCELLANY

Answer 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Answer 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Answer 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Answer 5 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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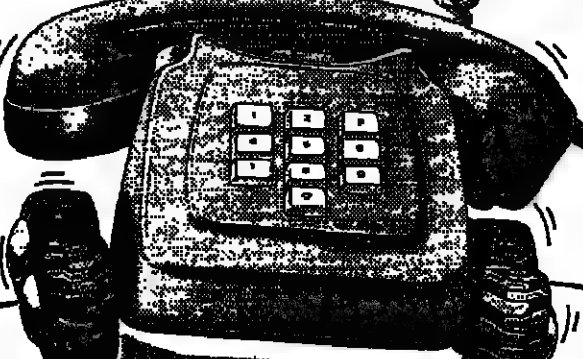
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# TIMES DIARY

ALAN HAMILTON

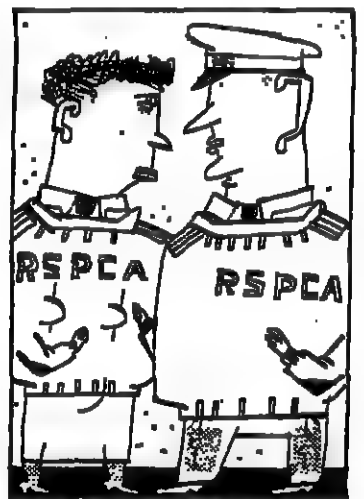
While unable at this stage to solve the great remaining mystery of British intelligence scandals and name the fifth man, I can shed some new light on that former Times Spanish Civil War correspondent and self-proclaimed KGB general, Kim Philby. After his defection to Moscow in 1951, Philby, according to many accounts, enjoyed high status in his new homeland. He himself liked to spread the story that he was already a KGB colonel at the time of his defection, and was later promoted to general. But the myth will be thoroughly exploded in the book to be published later this year by KGB defector Oleg Gordievsky and Cambridge historian Christopher Andrew, which draws on secret KGB archives. Throughout Philby's life, no foreign agent was allowed any officer rank at all, and Kim died plain Agent Philby. The KGB took the view that no foreigner was entirely free of suspicion, however good his work and credentials. The denial of the honours he expected was, I gather, a deep hurt to Philby.

From this week's *Tring and Berkhamstead Express*: "Greenhouse, 12 ft by 8 ft. Bargain, £60. Glass missing through storm."

Stanley Orman, the snappiest dresser in the Ministry of Defence and the man in charge of Britain's Star Wars efforts, has received an extraordinary accolade from President Bush after handing in his resignation. Never afraid to promote his belief in the project, the bow-tied Dr Orman often caused alarm among MoD officials who remained sceptical about the anti-missile scheme. But the Americans loved him. Representatives from Washington, including Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, came to London to fete him over dinner at Brown's Hotel, and presented him with a signed personal letter from the President, thanking him for his contribution.

Thatcherism may be dying on its feet in Britain, but it is alive and well in foreign parts. After their first uneasy steps towards democracy, the Poles have invited Stuart Sexton, adviser to former education secretaries Mark Carlisle and Keith Joseph, to tell them how to prise their schools from the clutches of the state and return them, grant-maintained, to local boards of governors. Sexton recently undertook a similar mission in New Zealand, whose government is if anything more left-wing than Poland's new regime. His proposals, he tells me, were embraced with great enthusiasm, only for them to be sabotaged by the civil servants. Under real Thatcherism, of course, they would not have dared. Or would they?

BARRY FANTONI



What terrifies me is a cross between a militant and a disenchanted Tory

Two more successful attempts to lay hands on some of my Glenoglyne 17-year-old single malt whisky with a Budget speech in 100 words or fewer. I liked the entrant who proposed a punitive tax on Nigel Lawson's new salary and signed himself Checker of the Ex-Chancellor. A bottle to Mark Western of London SW12, who also had a swipe at Nigel.

"Car tax replaced by 50 per cent income tax on all persons with Garfields stuck on their cars. Additional 5 per cent income tax on people who have only one person under a golfing umbrella in the city. VAT of 300 per cent on mobile phones. Import duties replaced by tax of £1,000 per imported square inch of Berlin Wall. VAT of 45 per cent on braces with leather straps. Braces worn with striped shirts incur an additional 10 per cent. Income tax reduced to 20 per cent, save for retired Chancellors who shall be taxed at 80 per cent."

And another to Richard Miles of Kingston upon Thames for: "I identify inflation as the main threat. Accordingly I propose: a 20p per litre tax on aerated waters, regardless of beverage content; a tax of 20p per square inch on vehicle tyre pressures, effective April 1; balloons to be taxed on their cubic capacity, with a surcharge on hot-air balloons; finally, hot air itself to incur duty in accordance with the new 'verbometer' scales now available in the Vote Office. Briefly, all speeches will be assessed, including those in this House, at party conferences, or in the pulpit. Only sermons on stones will be exempt. Final winners on Tuesday.

At the top of the staircase leading to the Hyde Park Hotel ballroom, we were met by a toastmaster so grand that one toyed with introducing him to the host. He eased forward a well-kept ear; one mouthed into it a name. He amplified it for the benefit of the reception line. Good of you to come; kind of you to ask me. You look well; I am well. Good afternoon; hello. Hello; good afternoon. Better names with more significant titles rang from the pink-coated one as we who had been processed mingled among the pre-lunch drinks. It was the Totalisator Board's annual luncheon, one of the best social events of the metropolitan year. Guests had been short-listed from a short-list, and none who had offended Woodrow Wyatt was present. As glasses of gin and tonic came around, I overheard a hereditary

Effective government requires both the consent of the governed and obedience to the law. What is made law in Parliament must be obeyed if orderly government is not to fall into disrepute. But a government must beware of asking its parliamentary majority to make laws or to levy taxes which are likely to meet serious resistance. Consultation is necessary to ensure sufficient consent for lawful obedience.

Consultation through Parliament is provided not simply by the fact that MPs have been elected. They are also the channel through which the government continually learns about public opinion. It has always been so. When the earliest representatives of the Commons were called to Parliament to grant taxation, their function was not only to bind their constituents to the taxes legally levied there, but also to tell the government, from their own knowledge of their constituents, what taxation could and could not be raised in practice.

With the poll tax, it is now a question how far respect for the law will be damaged both by public resistance on grounds of intrinsic unfairness and by general dismay at the illogicalities

## Ronald Butt on the poll tax warnings that went unheeded

# Tories' rough-shod error

likely to be revealed in the operation of the tax and the cost and complication of collecting it. The Government has, of course, been warned of the dangers at almost every stage by many of its own MPs, from the right as well as the left of the party. The risks were obvious. Nearly three years ago (June 25, 1987) I pointed to the dangers of levying a flat rate, regardless of income, what is much more of a general tax than a charge for services received. I also described the ominous circumstances in which the notorious poll tax of 1989 was chosen by Parliament in preference to its other options, a sales tax or the conventional medieval tax on movable goods.

Yet even the medieval flat-rate poll tax contained the vague proviso that it was to be levied with "the strong aiding the weak". The trouble was that no means were provided to ensure that the weak were aided, and

they were particularly hard hit in districts where the rich were few. When a law is made or a tax is levied which is generally seen as unfair, the ground is made ready for mischief-makers to sow the seeds of disruption. In 1384, the collection of the poll tax provided a pretext for the renege knight John Ball and the insurgent Wat Tyler to manipulate a more general peasant unrest into the notorious revolt. It was crushed; Ball was hanged and Tyler killed. Today, the widespread dislike of the poll tax has roused the Militant Tendency and other leftists from the hiding place into which Mr. Kinnoch had driven them. Again there is leftist violence on the streets. They will, of course, not succeed in their organized disruption, and they may embarrass Mr. Kinnoch more than Mrs. Thatcher. But the Government cannot assume that the recoil of decent people from left-wing violence, or the discredit it will

bring to Labour, if there is the slightest hint in its rejection of the Militants' lawlessness, will provide it with a rescue rope. The real danger is from the Tory voters likely to desert the party in Mid Staffordshire and the coming local elections. The tax is disliked by some of these Tory dissidents because it has meant increasing the amount paid in proportion to the new tax in unimproved districts — contrary to the Government's intention of making voters pay for clearing spendthrift representatives.

But greater dislike of the poll tax arises from the way it falls harshly on the poorer individual who has to pay equally with the richer for collective spending normally covered by tax according to means. So low earners must pay a new tax and many couples on modest incomes face a combined poll tax much higher than the former rate.

A flat-rate charge for genuine local services, such as street lighting and refuse collection, makes sense. But a flat-rate charge to pay for education or the police is no more rational than a flat-rate charge to pay for the defence of the realm, which is defrayed by tax according to means. The best answer, as I suggested three years ago, is to shift the major items from local to central tax, leaving the local authorities to raise the money only for such genuinely local services as refuse collection. This would mean a higher income tax, but this would not matter if local taxation were lower. Indeed, all personal taxation could easily be raised centrally and then allocated outwards, leaving local authorities to be tested at the polls by how well or foolishly they spend their allocations. Alternatively, the rates (which were linked to rent-value, in which there is no real market)

could be replaced by a tax on the capital value of property. The worst outcome would be Labour's roof tax which, by combining a property tax with one on incomes, really could be used to squeeze the rich. It is the Government which has given Labour the pretext for this. Mistaken though the Government was to persist with a tax which stirs such deep feelings, it is wholly undemocratic for left-wing MPs to advocate non-payment. The Government can now only trust the public's instinct for law and make sure that order is preserved. There is nothing else it can do. It cannot go on tinkering with the poll tax, and it cannot retreat from it now. It can only hold tight, hope that the really dangerous rebellion, that of the deserting Tories, will be deterred by the thought of a Labour government and rethink the details of the tax when it has been seen in operation. It is unusual for a government to have to pin more and more of its hopes to the idea that the Opposition is unacceptable. But that is the state this one is in — for the extraordinary reason that it failed to take consultation and consent seriously enough. It is a mistake no Tory government should make.

## A procrastinator under pressure

The crunch vote in the inner cabinet of Israel's Likud-Labour coalition this Sunday comes as the climax of a complex but important train of events.

When the Likud prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, proposed last May that elections be held in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, he had no idea what he was starting. Elections had previously been suggested by Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Party's defence minister, but Mr. Shamir had brushed the idea aside.

He then picked it up, hoping that it would be rejected by the Palestine Liberation Organization, which could then be blamed for blocking a peace initiative. That, however, is not at all what happened.

Yasir Arafat, the PLO's chairman, told me in Tunis last summer that elections, not necessarily based specifically on Mr. Shamir's formula, might well be acceptable. President Mubarak of Egypt decided to become involved and formulated a 10-point plan, based on direct discussions between Israel and the Palestinians, to promote the project.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State, seeking to build a bridge between the Mubarak plan and the Likud position, put forward five clarifying points. After Likud had declared, with whoops of joy, that the PLO had rejected Mr. Baker's points, I was able, at a second meeting with Mr. Arafat in October, to obtain a clear statement that, far from being rejected, the American initiative was still being discussed by the PLO. I passed this on to the Americans.

The Labour Party's cabinet ministers tabled the Egyptian proposals for acceptance by the Israeli coalition's 12-man inner cabinet, and although President Mubarak's 10 points were rejected by the six Likud ministers, Labour refused to accept that the initiative was doomed. Both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, who is finance minister and Labour leader, visited Cairo for talks with Mr. Mubarak.

Progress was made. Mr. Mubarak's greatest concern, as he frankly admitted, was to ensure that Mr. Baker continued to be involved. He feared that the American Secretary of State, exasperated with Likud's negative stance, would wash his hands of the issue. That is why Mr. Mubarak was so keen that the PLO should not appear to be rejecting progress.

He need not have worried. The Americans became, if anything, more heavily involved. President Bush was at first extremely evasive about seeing Mr. Shamir at all, and then gave him a hard time when he visited Washington. Mr. Baker continued the softening-up process when Moshe Arens, Likud's foreign minister, was there last month. Likud was forced to accept Mr. Baker's five points.

Two weeks ago, when I had meetings in Israel with Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin among others, it



## Gerald Kaufman reports on the growing divisions within Israel's ruling coalition as Yitzhak Shamir continues to thwart peace talks with the Palestinians

was clear that matters were coming to a head.

They agreed that an ultimatum should be put to Likud: either agree to talks with the Palestinians or face the break-up of the coalition. The crucial issues on which Mr. Shamir was stalling were, first, who should be included in the Palestinian delegation, and second, how Israel might agree to engage in talks with the Palestinians without them being publicly nominated by the PLO (to which the Israeli government refuses to speak directly).

The PLO insisted that Palestinian representatives should not simply be selected as apparent Israeli stooges from inside the occupied territories, but should come from Jerusalem (purportedly annexed by Israel in 1967) and from outside the occupied territories.

Mr. Rabin had already agreed with Mr. Mubarak that the inclusion of outsiders in the Palestinian delegation should be solved by the addition of Palestinians deported from the occupied territories. Mr. Rabin, with characteristic bluntness, emphasized how easy such a solution would be: "I deported them. I can bring them back."

Representatives from Jerusalem could be covered, to use a formulation offered by Mr. Peres, by inclusion in the Palestinian

team of "one or two from Jerusalem who may have addresses elsewhere" (that is, on the West Bank).

As for the potentially thorny issue of how a Palestinian delegation could be acceptable to the PLO yet also allow Mr. Shamir to claim that it was not nominated by the PLO, the ingenious answer, offered by Mr. Peres and his colleagues, was that Egypt would announce the delegation.

On the afternoon of the day I met the Labour leaders, their party bureau agreed to demand a positive response from Likud at an inner cabinet meeting to be held some two weeks from that day, namely yesterday.

Once again Mr. Shamir tried to haggle. He rejected the inclusion of residents of Jerusalem, however their participation was, in his eyes, camouflaged. He insisted that talks, once started, should be broken off if it emerged that the PLO was involved.

Now, however, Labour's leaders, the bit between their teeth, refused to be blocked. They wanted a decision. Mr. Peres declined to be sidetracked. "The problem," he said to me, "is not whom we recognize but what we are demanding. We are demanding elections." The absence of

two Likud inner cabinet members at yesterday's meeting delayed a decision. Sunday will be the key day.

What will happen if Likud refuses to proceed to talks? Mr. Rabin stated the choices starkly: either Likud support, or a new government, or new elections. Mr. Peres feels that if he can, he could form a government with the support of religious parties. "We have today a clear majority in the Parliament for the continuation of the peace process."

In answer to the question how a "narrow" government (that is, excluding the Likud) could make peace, Abba Eban, the former foreign minister and now a pro-peace elder statesman, declared at a conference I addressed jointly with him in Jerusalem: "Why not? After all, it was a narrow government [excluding Labour] which made war in Lebanon in 1982."

Furthermore, the Likud may be starting to crumble at the edges. Ariel Sharon, the chauvinist trade and industry minister, has resigned from the cabinet, declaring that Mr. Shamir has already gone too far. Likud's ex-Liberal Party wing is threatening to pull four of its MPs out of the party to form a separate parliamentary group. Labour, on the other hand, is more cohesive than ever, a shoulder on which a battle-torn Mr. Shamir might find it convenient to lean.

Labour's terms are clear. "Labour says yes," says Mr. Peres. "We can start and we should not miss the opportunity." Another influential Labour figure said: "Once the meetings in Cairo start, the process will be irreversible. That may be what worries Mr. Shamir."

The author is Labour spokesman on foreign affairs.

Lobbyists and commentators are already gearing up for the Budget on March 20, their enthusiasm for the annual ritual undiminished by the fact that it may contain few measures of significance.

This year, more than most, there is a case for getting off the Budget treadmill, with its unnecessary churning of the tax system and resulting voluminous Finance Bill. In the pause the fundamentals of taxation could be rethought.

It would be easier to do without the Budget than might at first appear. The chief legal obstacle is straightforward: income tax requires annual parliamentary approval. But assuming that no dramatic changes to income tax are planned, the proposals could be contained in a Bill of 30 pages at most — unlike last year's 250-pages. It should require only a 15-minute speech to introduce; then MPs could get on with other work.

In a year without a Budget, a number of tax matters would be "fiscally buoyant". First, tax revenue would be likely to increase because of "fiscal buoyancy" (the process by which, as money GDP rises, tax revenue rises faster). Second, income tax allowances would also be taken care of. Thanks to the Rooker/Wise amendment, which is now part of Britain's tax law, allowances are themselves indexed to inflation. If inflation rises, and the chancellor does nothing, the Rooker/Wise formula takes effect and increases taxpayers' allowances automatically.

Third, doing nothing simply leaves excise duties as they were. Still more important, the absence of a Budget would remove the opportunity to try to correct the consequences of past weak monetary policy by fiscal adjustment. Central to the philosophy of the Medium Term Financial Strategy has been the attempt to create a predictable policy framework, in which businesses can plan ahead without worries over political attempts to use short-term "fine tuning" techniques. Unlike interest rates, taxation policy has so far been largely immune from resort to fine tuning, but the scale of the problems left over from monetary laxity provides a temptation to meddle this year.

Yet the prime benefit of a year without a Budget would be scope to start reforming Britain's antiquated systems of implementing public spending and tax policy. The respected Institute for Fiscal Studies has long worked towards a closer integration of spending and taxation decisions, which are still artificially separated. They ought to be combined in a single round of taxing and spending decisions. In addition, Britain still does not publish a Green Paper on Budget measures, which would allow sensible advance discussion of tax reform options.

In the gap provided by a year without a Budget, a reforming chancellor could begin to introduce a modern system which would link public spending decisions to tax policy, not least by

requiring expenditure proposals to be formally budgeted.

He could also show a willingness to heed the increasing criticism from tax specialists that the annual Finance Bill, which still does not separate policy from enforcement and adjustment issues, has become a legislative nightmare of complexity and obscurantism.

To quote the barrister who is secretary of the Revenue Bar Association, last year's Finance Bill exhibited "a combination of cackhandedness, bureaucratic mania for rules and totally incompetent supervision of the revenue departments by the Treasury and its political masters". As the Tory backbencher Tim Smith remarked, last year's Finance Bill was too long to allow proper debate. Leading QC's have called the procedure a farce, while the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has complained about the length, complexity and absence of consolidation of annual tax legislation.

No chancellor will be able to give these complaints the serious consideration they deserve unless he is able to bring the Budget system to a temporary halt and allow a full debate on its best redesign. It is not the least of his problems that Inland Revenue and Customs, and Excise officials tend to be their own judge and jury. The Treasury itself is not equipped with policy staff to exert effective control on the tax and excise men. Unless and until the Treasury assumes this role, it is highly likely that tax law will continue to be tilted towards the annual introduction of ever more complex and severe anti-avoidance provisions.

But what of the glamour of the Budget? Some — especially those with vested interests — will undoubtedly argue that it is a necessary showcase of economic policy, and an irreplaceable platform for the chancellor to address the nation.

Yet the disadvantages, especially this year, seem to outnumber those benefits. The platform is obtained at the price of an increasingly artificial pre-Budget "purdah", in which the chancellor is silenced for fear of "leaking away" strands of his thinking. Ironically, this may contribute to the obsessive secrecy which is responsible for some of the poorly thought-out and overly complex tax measures of the 1980s.

Tax buoyancy means that if the traditional Budget were dropped this year, there would be little pressure for undesirable "mini Budgets". Instead, the prize — a welcome pause to get a grip on the next wave of structural and technical reform — would be well worth having. Of course, in an ideal world each year would see a slimmed-down Budget reducing tax rates and abolishing a tax a year. To get from where we are to that happy position, a year without a Budget would be a good stepping stone. The author is General Director of the Institute of Economic Affairs.

## Confessions of a racing tippler



CLEMENT FREUD

peer tell a stendipary steward that there was one thing to remember when employing Filipino maids: "Never give 'em a day off, else they might meet other Filipinos and find out what soft jobs there are to be had."

"Can't keep them locked in the cellar all week," said the stipe, "...or can you?"

"I give mine Monday mornings," his lordship replied. "Damned odd business," said a colonel who had led the 83rd Foot in the last war. "My man got caught sticking Green Shield stamps on his National Health Insurance card, came up before the magistrates, was sentenced to three months in jail or an electric

toaster, what?" This was a good joke, had been even better when there were Green Shield stamps and National Health Insurance cards on which to affix them; computers have taken more from humour than they contributed. "Thought you were dead," said an old man to one who was older. "Seem to remember going to your funeral."

"You'll have to speak up a bit," said the other man. "Lot of noise in here."

And the toastmaster announced: "Your Royal Highness, Your Graces, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, luncheon is served."

Painlessly and efficiently we were given smoked salmon, fillet of beef, then pudding. Wine flowed, liquors were offered, cigars came by and the Lord Wyatt of Weeford rose to his feet: "Your Royal Highness, Your two

Graces — there should have been three Graces but one of them got away, My Lords..."

Around him sat the Home Secretary and three former holders of that office; captains of industry, politicians of clout, editors, members of the Jockey Club. "Racing," said Lord Wyatt, "is romance, not reality, but there must be a kiss sometimes. I would now like to embrace the Home Secretary — not literally of course..." The thrust of the speech was that it is high time the Tote was removed from the control of the Home Office.

Speaker for the guests was Mr. J.J. Warr. He told a joke about a clergyman who had cleaned out

three bookmakers in a race-train by bets on spelling. "Never knew it was so easy," muttered one of the recently impoverished at the end of the journey.

Encouraged, he went on to relate the tale of the trainer who told his jock to keep his horse handy, wait for a gap and make for it. "What went wrong?" asked the trainer after the horse had finished seventh. "Didn't you see the gap?"

"I did," said the jock, "but it was going faster than us."

Lunch ended at 2.35 pm, which is wholly admirable, time for some sustained afternoon work. A colleague asked if I would care to join him for a small drink. I am not, I explained, a lunchtime drinker — I find it kills the rest of the day. He gave a gentle smile and ordered a bottle of Taittinger Blanc de Blanc. We talked of Lester Piggott and discussed holidays by the Dead Sea.

There is not as much wine in a Taittinger Blanc de Blanc bottle as we had expected; perhaps they vary in content, so we tried another, talked about betting coups and the second bottle of Taittinger seemed, how shall I put it, not as generous as the first and we embarked on a third. Through the windows at the far end of the room, Hyde Park was less distinct than it had been, and being a man who doesn't drink in the afternoons I explained that I had to get back to work. My friend thought there was now not much point. I looked at my watch, which was not very distinct either, and saw what he meant.





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## MR KINNOCK'S MILITANT FOE

The sight of mobs besieging town halls, of arrested demonstrators and of injured policemen is a sharp reminder that the outside left, conventionally represented by the description Militant Tendency, was never killed off by Mr Neil Kinnock's strictures. It merely went to ground, awaiting its opportunity to emerge again as soon as it identified a cause for discontent which seemed to promise an opportunity for manipulating public disorder for long-term political ends.

The widespread discontent with the poll tax, not least among Tory voters, has been seized as an opportunity for testing the organizing power of the small groups of activists to foment unrest. The evidence suggests the kind of "rent-a-mob" campaign characteristic of the violence employed on the picket lines during the miners' strike.

The outcome will be the same; the cause on behalf of which violence is deployed is more likely to be undermined than helped by it. Tory voters protesting peacefully to their MPs, newspapers and television will, with good reason, be dismayed by the tactics of their unsought allies.

The brand name Militant was always, of course, an unduly restrictive description of the undemocratic left in Britain, which existed in many places under an assortment of different names. It has always had well-placed sympathizers in influential parts of the Labour Party (in the NEC, for instance) who were never backward in trying to protect the Militants whenever the moderates proposed action against them.

To his credit, Mr Kinnock confronted the Militants head on and forced them into retreat. But those who campaign under the Militant banner are only the most visible part of a wider front of less obtrusive leftists, and it was in some respects convenient for Mr Kinnock to treat the Militants (specifically those in Liverpool) as a scapegoat. They could be driven forth from the party, bearing the sins of the many more who remain hidden and unregenerate among Labour's left — not least in some of the inner city local authorities which are responsible for the highest poll tax levies.

It is an undeniable fact of politics that this

broad half-hidden left, which is impatient with democratic processes, still remains to savage any future Labour leader who strays too far from their own doctrine of socialism. Labour leaders have, therefore, rightly and unambiguously repudiated the lawbreaking violence which can only injure their cause. Mr Bryan Gould did so with commendable speed before the worst of the town hall disruption was reported. Mr Kinnock and his colleagues know that it is counter-productive and much more likely to harm Labour's cause than Mrs Thatcher's.

Her danger, of course, lies in the polling booths rather than in the mobs which disrupt proceedings at the town hall. Indeed, it could be argued that by focusing their attentions on the town halls they will illustrate Mrs Thatcher's argument that it is there that the problem really lies. It is bound to be a question for many Tory protest voters — particularly in a general election — whether they should risk a vote against the Government when the outcome could be to bring to power a Labour government which is always threatened by leftist infiltration.

If violence, easily condemned, were the whole of the matter, Mr Kinnock's position would be easier than it is. His real embarrassment is that, even after the town hall disruption organized by the militant Anti-Poll Tax Federation, 28 Labour MPs (including Mr Tony Benn, Mr Ken Livingstone and Mr Bernie Grant — the last two of whom made their way to the Commons through hard left local politics) have declared their support for the national demonstration called to support mass non-payment of poll tax.

Yet non-payment of a legal tax is law-breaking too. There have been Labour taxes which Tories dislike but Tories are expected to pay them. The essence of democratic government is obedience to the law.

Mr Kinnock knows this and has unreservedly condemned the demands for non-payment in the past. But he should go beyond this now. Hard though it is for him to censure explicitly so large a proportion of his own MPs, he would be wise to accept the Tory challenge formally to do so.

## ECONOMIES WITH THE TRUTH

The report of the Department of Trade inspectors into the purchase by the Fayed brothers of the House of Fraser stores group exposes an astonishing web of lies and deception. That they could have taken in, one after the other, a great City merchant bank, a senior law firm and the two most commercially experienced arms of government (the Office of Fair Trading and the Department of Trade and Industry), goes almost beyond belief.

According to the inspectors, Mr Henry Brooke, QC, and Mr Hugh Aldous, there was scarcely an aspect of their families, their circumstances and above all their wealth, which the brothers honestly represented. The lies start with false birth certificates and stretch out endlessly, all designed to create a false impression of substantial wealth of long standing. The brothers lied to the secretary of state, to the Office of Fair Trading, to the press, to the House of Fraser and then to the inspectors themselves.

If only half of what the inspectors claim is true there would be grounds enough to declare that the Fayed brothers were not fit to be directors of a public limited liability company. Limited liability is a privilege extended to the owners of business, and in return for the immunity that such status gives them, such owners must be trustworthy. On the findings of the inspectors, the Fayed brothers are simply dishonest. If that is the case, they should be stripped of their directorships forthwith.

It is alarming not only that the ownership of Europe's largest departmental stores group is in such hands, but also that the House of Fraser group includes a bank. That is a matter on which the Bank of England should do more than simply take note.

If a humble meat cutter from the Harrods food hall was found to have lied to the authorities on the scale that the Fayed brothers are said to have practised their deception, the Home Office might act with some speed. Similarly, if a Harrods shop girl had obtained employment

with the help of a bogus reference, she would expect to be sacked if the deceit was discovered.

The report which, for different reasons, the brothers find "shocking", does however fail to get to the bottom of a crucial aspect of the curious case of the takeover of Harrods: if the money did not come from the Fayed's own resources, where did it come from? The inspectors feel they would not have got to the bottom of that question, no matter how long they searched. But they suspect it came from the coffers of the Sultan of Brunei, a suggestion which has been flatly denied by the Sultan.

Even the proving of such a connection, however, would be unlikely to prompt the Government to act. The fact of the Fayed's being shown to be unsuitable to own such a business does not make Lomax, which had been prevented from bidding for House of Fraser until it was too late, their natural successor. And even though the Fayed brothers are accused of lying extensively to the inspectors, that has been an offence only since last year. House of Fraser itself appears to be honestly managed, and is weathering the recession in the high street in reasonable shape.

The publication of this report, which has been handed like a hot potato from secretary of state to secretary of state as welcome as it is overdue. But it should not mark the end of the matter.

The inspectors have uncovered a nasty disease but can recommend no cure, other than to suggest that in future merchant banks and other advisers must be certain that the assurances they give to the authorities are so framed that they do not carry more weight than they deserve. Given the strength of the language of the report and the obvious conviction of the inspectors it is indeed curious that no further action is to be taken by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Nicholas Ridley.

## ETHIOPIAN DAWN?

The declaration by President Mengistu of Ethiopia that he is liberalizing his Marxist regime calls for an effort of the imagination. The students who marched through the streets of Addis Ababa in celebration of the "dawn of a new era" could be welcoming a false one. The President's record does not inspire confidence.

Since seizing power in 1977 he has pursued policies which have been as disastrous as they have been repressive. Ravaged by famine and laid waste by civil war, his country has staggered towards economic ruin, despite the support of his Soviet mentors. His unattractive rule has been characterized by a cavalier approach to human rights in general and the forced resettlement of thousands of his people in particular.

Now he has said that the Workers' Party of Ethiopia, which has held a monopoly of power for 13 years, is turning into the Democratic Unity Party. All political ideologies will be welcome. In a five-hour speech to the party central committee he promised to allow more private enterprise, with farmers being allowed to sell their own produce. Ethiopia, he said, was having to adjust to a changing international situation.

Indeed it is. The indications are, however, that his apostasy is not the result of a genuine conversion but is a response to growing pressures. The Ethiopian Army has been demoralized by a succession of defeats by rebels in both Eritrea and Tigre. Last year the President survived an attempted military coup. Those who took part could hardly have expected to be let off with a caution, but the sudden removal of 200 or so officers left the Army in a critical condition, with inexperienced

commanders in the field. Its performance, never impressive, has deteriorated further.

Pressure has also come from overseas. The Russians continue to offer support, but with increasing reluctance. If the Mengistu regime collapsed it would be embarrassing, so they feel obliged to prop it up, but they badly want a negotiated peace.

Ideologically, the Soviet Union can place a bet either way, since both the Eritreans and Tigrayans follow Marx. (Although since the events in Eastern Europe it must find the Ethiopian comrades, especially the Stalinist Tigrayans, rather extreme). Politically it has a natural sympathy with anyone who is fending off secession, but it cannot see any chance of military victory and would clearly like to extricate itself. President Mengistu's Cuban advisers have long since gone. A number of Israeli soldiers on, but the Russians have withdrawn from the front line.

Isolated abroad, failing badly at home, the President has therefore chosen to experiment with reform. His commitment to economic pluralism is welcome, but what he has to offer is unlikely to appease the rebel armies, who will probably interpret it as a sign of weakness. At best it might provide a focal point when talks with the Tigrayans resume this month.

Whether the Ethiopian leopard can change its spots remains to be seen. In most cases change has come to Eastern Europe only after the Ceausescu and Honecker have gone. They were swept away on the high tide of reform. President Mengistu will have to display exceptional and unusual adroitness if he is to continue to lead his suffering people.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Case for raising mortgage threshold

From Mr Anthony Gimson  
Sir, No government has done more to encourage and promote home ownership than the present one, but as the fight against inflation intensifies the home-buyer and the home-builder are having to shoulder the greatest burden.

Even before the recent rise in interest rates mortgage arrears had risen alarmingly — in the second six months of 1989 the number of families 12 months or more behind in their payments rose by 31 per cent. Almost all first-time buyers are now obliged to pay stamp duty and many are having to rely on parental generosity to stand any hope of getting a foot on the property ladder.

More unfair still is the fact that allowed on mortgage interest. Back in 1974, when the average home cost just £11,500, tax relief was allowed on mortgages up to £25,000. The threshold was raised to its present level of £30,000 seven years ago, when the average home cost about £29,500.

This association, representing 15 of the largest home-builders in southern England, believes that it should be raised to at least £50,000

for first-time buyers and to £45,000 for second and subsequent buyers. These increases could be at least partly financed by the phasing out of higher-rate tax relief for mortgages held by high earners, who can best afford to pay more.

Builders themselves have already fared their tails to the limit, offering home-buyers the best deals ever in order to help those desperate to get on the housing ladder at affordable prices.

A stagnant property market will lead to increased unemployment, bankruptcies, and, in the long run, homelessness. Somehow we are expected to provide 560,000 new homes in the South-east alone by the end of the century. The home-building industry is always the barometer of a government's success or failure; it will need a sharp tap in the Budget if we are to be set fair for the new decade.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY GIMSON,  
Southern Homebuilders Association,  
c/o Rosemount Tower,  
Stifford Road,  
Wallingford, Surrey,  
March 2.

### Heat and light in poll tax debate

From Councillor Derrick Wood  
Sir, Soon I shall have completed 30 years as a local councillor, at county, district, and parish council levels, and during that period I have witnessed revolutionary changes in the organisation, practice, and ethos of local government. One thing has remained constant — the skill with which central Government and the Civil Servant blame local government for their mistakes and deficiencies and so try to avoid their proper share of blame.

Hitherto this has been achieved by the yearly manipulation of the rate-support grant and the annual modifications of the formulae behind its application. Now, with the introduction of the community charge, a new method has been adopted — the standard spending assessment (SSA), and the clamour, from the Prime Minister downwards, against the alleged profligacy of some local councils.

In the case of my council it is blatantly untrue. Over the last five years we have achieved major savings by contracting out services; our workforce has been reduced by two thirds, and our budget for 1990-91 is a model of prudent activity, erasing, if anything, on the side of frugality. Yet our community charge will exceed the SSA by some £110.

First there is the "safety net" of £60 (which rescues Wandsworth, for example, at our expense); then the Government's inadequate estimate of inflation and pay increases; the "ring-fencing" of the housing revenue account to prevent transfers to other accounts; and finally the inordinate, yet unavoidable, high cost of collection of the community charge. If the goal is to make the local community more equal, this is the best way to achieve it.

It is high time that fiddling with the degree of central grant was removed and some fair, reasonably permanent method created. Above all, it is too much to hope for some honest, politically-neutral stance to be adopted? No one gains from the present confrontation and unjust vituperation.

Yours faithfully,  
DERICK WOOD  
(Conservative),  
The Old Shop, East End,  
Paglesham, nr. Rochford, Essex.

From Mr Douglas J. McBean  
Sir, One of the greatest advantages of the community charge is the introduction of accountability. Local income tax would hardly induce accountability at all. Rather, like the rates, local income tax would provide no direct link between the level of charge applied and the level of spending; indeed, only about two million more people would pay than now pay rates.

Worse still is the consideration

of the costs involved in a system which reproduced the function of the Inland Revenue on a local scale which would be very difficult to set up and operate. In 1981 the Inland Revenue estimated it would take an additional 55,000 staff to operate a local income tax costing, in today's terms, £750 million. This additional spending on bureaucracy could only be funded by an increased rate of tax. Even the proponents of the local income tax system admit that any couple with a joint income of £12,000 or above would be worse off compared to the community charge.

I and several hundred Conservatives like me will be seeking election in the local elections on May 3, strongly supporting the introduction of the community charge. A rebate system more generous than that available under the old rating system is in place and should be utilised by those on lower incomes. Those people on higher income rightly contribute substantially more to local government through the payment of higher income taxes, which account for 50 per cent of financing for local services.

Yours faithfully,  
DOUGLAS J. McBEAN,  
24 Pampas Court,  
Colchester, Essex.

From Lord Taylor of Gylfe  
Sir, Your Economics Editor (article, March 3), discussing the experience of the poll tax in Scotland, gives an entirely misleading picture when he states: "Despite dire predictions about the difficulties of collecting the tax, 99 per cent of the population have registered, and revenue is running at about 90 per cent of the target..."

The latest figures supplied by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities show that 3.8 million Scots are liable for the tax which was introduced in April, 1989; 800,000 have paid nothing or are more than three months in arrears. Included in that figure are 375,000 non-payers against whom sheriff warrants have been issued.

The Scottish clearing banks and the DSS have stated that they are unable to handle this volume of arrears. This experience does not justify the optimistic conclusions of your Economics Editor. Yours faithfully,  
TAYLOR,  
33 Seagate, Kingsburn, Fife.

From Dr P. Glaister  
Sir, On learning the community charge that my wife and I will each have to pay in April, I fear that, in our case at least, we will finally have to put to rest that old adage that "two people can live as cheaply as one". Yours faithfully,  
P. GLAISTER,  
38 Inslow Road,  
Earley, Reading, Berkshire,  
March 5.

### Mental puzzles

From Mr Simon J. H. Davis  
Sir, You will quite probably be the unwitting cause of my mother's next heart attack. As a foreigner I rely on her access to reference books and had hoped to get past the first week of the Tournament of the Mind untroubled by dilemmas. Sadly, day one produced the first poser as her encyclopaedia gives two equally valid alternative names in answer to the question about which club, whose members included Sir Walter Raleigh, met at the Mermaid Tavern in London. Now I must decide whether to give both or choose one at random and my mother is cursing both you and me!

On a happier note, one question has improved my linguistic prowess: my previous claim to fame was that I could say "You are safe with me" in 12 different languages (whilst meaning it in none), but now I am able to translate the word "muddy" into 23. Is there no end to the learning process? Yours quizzically,

SIMON J. H. DAVIS,  
Chemin de la Plantaz 12,  
1024 Ecublens, Switzerland,  
March 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

### Repression in Nepal

From Mr Danny Smith  
Sir, Having recently visited Nepal and talked with many of the Christian victims of repression in that country, I was pleased to read your editorial of February 23.

During my visit I saw a church hall in Bhaktapur which had recently been stripped completely bare by police. The 78-year-old pastor was arrested while conducting a Sunday church service and badly beaten; he is still in jail today. His congregation were arrested with him and forced to bow down to Hindu idols.

Earlier, in Kathmandu, I found the Reverend Charles Meedies (the Nepal who contributed to Jubilee Campaign's recent report on 20 years of repression in his country) in prison, serving a six-year sentence for proselytising. Such attacks on the peaceful Christian minority have marred the spectacular beauty of Nepal. As totalitarianism, political, and ideological oppression are increasingly unacceptable to the world community, I would hope that the winds of glasnost currently sweeping through Eastern Europe would swiftly wash their way across the Himalayan mountain range.

Yours faithfully,  
DANNY SMITH (Director),  
Jubilee Campaign,  
PO Box 80,  
Cobham, Surrey,  
March 5.

### Halting the campaign in Gallipoli

From Mr Peter T. Scott  
Sir, Your feature, "The journalist who stopped a war" (Review, March 3), described how Australian reporter Keith Murdoch "almost single-handedly" halted the Gallipoli campaign.

Inevitably, the full story is very much more complex, and very much more complex. Briefly, however, Murdoch and his lesser must share a substantial portion of any credit that might be due to them with one of those rock-slabbed "incompetent staff officers" so beloved of scapegoat-seeking writers.

He was Major Guy Dawnay, a member of General Sir Ian Hamilton's operations staff, and from the moment the Suvla Bay landing was seen to be a failure in mid-August, 1915, he had recognised and urged the necessity of withdrawal from the peninsula.

The Micawber-like Hamilton was easily persuaded of the benefits of having a staff officer in London and Dawnay was on his way home to report at about the time that Murdoch was arriving at the Dardanelles for his four-day visit to Anzac.

In London Dawnay was interviewed by the King, by most

members of the Dardanelles Committee, by his military masters, and particularly by Kitchener, with whom he made no secret of his personal opinion that withdrawal was inevitable.

It was he who annotated Kitchener's copy of Murdoch's letter in time for the meeting of the Dardanelles Committee, before having to return to the peninsula.

Dawnay, like Murdoch, seldom spoke in later years of the part he played in closing down the Gallipoli front. But Robert Rhodes James, author of the most balanced of all the studies of the campaign, has written: Murdoch could possibly be laughed off, but not Dawnay. In all the history of the Gallipoli campaign, nothing is more surprising than the spectacle of this exceptionally competent young staff officer advising ministers to over-rule the authority of his own commander-in-chief.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER T. SCOTT  
(Managing Editor),  
The Great War, The Illustrated  
Journal of First World War  
History,  
6 Cranleigh Gardens,  
Sanderstead,  
South Croydon,  
Surrey.

### Jericho's fall

From Dr M. G. L. Baillie  
Sir, Dr Bryant Wood's evidence, as reported by James Bone (February 23), for a new dating of the "Fall of Jericho" leaves a lot to be desired in terms of chronological rigour.

The scientific community has spent a great deal of time and money in providing calibration curves for the correction of radiocarbon "dates" to calendar "age ranges". It is now very well known that radiocarbon dates in the second millennium BC are consistently too young by several hundred years.

There is also a convention for reporting dates. Historical dates, or dates derived from tree-ring work (dendrochronology), are given as upper case AD/BC. Radiocarbon dates, because they are not calendar dates, should be reported as "ages before present" or BP — i.e., the number of

radiocarbon years before AD 1950.

The only way to handle radiocarbon dates in an historical context is to calibrate them — i.e., to turn the radiocarbon date into an estimate of real calendrical age. The resulting date should be reported as CalBC (short for calibrated age BC) or CalAD.

In round figures, using the internationally accepted Pearson/Stuiver calibration curve, the resulting range is 1550-1750 CalBC. Such an age range would appear to be entirely consistent with the older date suggested by Kathleen Kenyon in the 1950s. Thus, the new evidence does not back the biblical story of Jericho's fall.

Yours etc.,  
MIKE BAILLIE,  
The Queen's University of Belfast,  
Palaeocology Centre,  
Belfast,  
Northern Ireland,  
February 28.

### Business priorities

From the Director General of the Institute of Directors  
Sir, Mr Leslie Knox (March 5) is quite wrong in his assumptions about the composition of the membership of the Institute of Directors, as he probably also is in his understanding of the motivation of the vast majority of Britain's business people, who really just want to get on with the task in hand.

It is the diversity of business interests of its 39,000 members, and the positions they hold at all levels in their companies, from top jobs to the smallest private businesses, from which the IoD derives its authoritative influence. It represents the whole spectrum of business at board level.

No less than 55 per cent of members are involved in manu-

facturing, metal, or car production; a further 10 per cent are engaged in construction, coal, oil, agriculture and forestry; 12 per cent are in distribution, transport, and communications and only 23 per cent work in banking, finance, and other service industries.

The text of my speech (report, February 28), of which we are sending Mr Knox a copy, makes it clear that the IoD and its members take a compassionate view towards society's genuine casualties, and that they stand firmly for proper ethics and morality being applied to the way money is made and then disbursed.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MORGAN,  
Director General,  
Institute of Directors,  
116 Pall Mall, SW1,  
March 5.

### Channel tunnel

From Mr Stephen Plowden  
Sir, Richard Hope's examples of incident-free railway operations (March 3), though admirable in themselves, do not warrant his conclusion that the Channel tunnel is an acceptable risk.

Mr Hope does not distinguish between acts of sabotage or terrorism and accidents, but they pose quite different threats. The Channel tunnel cannot be made safe against a determined terrorist attack. To dismiss the threat of terrorism is therefore to say that such an attack would never be made — a very optimistic view.

Dr Herbert Eisner, a former director of the Flame and Explosion Laboratory of the Health and Safety Executive, has given the

reasons why the tunnel's vehicle shuttle, if operated as proposed without separating passengers from their vehicles, would pose unacceptable risks of accidental fire. The Alpine tunnels are much shorter, the trains are slower, vehicles are transported in open wagons which permit the dissipation of gas and petrol vapours, the tunnels carry much less traffic, the number of lives at risk at any one moment is far smaller.

The tunnel which most closely resembles the Channel tunnel is the Seikan tunnel, in Japan. This tunnel also carries road vehicles on rail wagons, but the vehicles are lifted on to the wagons and their fuel tanks are drained. Such a precaution, or even the milder precaution of segregation, might well reduce the risk of accidental fire in the Channel tunnel to an acceptable level, but who would then use the tunnel rather than driving the few extra miles to the ferries or hovercraft? Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN PLOWDEN,  
69 Albert Street, NW1,  
March 5.

### Alcohol abuse

From Viscount Falkland  
Sir, You report (March 5) that the Portman Group, under Dr Rae, is to introduce training for young drinkers in special teenage bars to encourage sensible drinking. In a country which traditionally spurs training and where drinking has always had its major appeal to those who wish to become intoxicated in as short a time as possible the scheme must have an uphill future.

One of the most popular West End shows at present is virtually a one-man show where the hero spends all the time either comatose or wildly incoherent after closing time in a London pub, and the audience loves it.

Most young people would rather do some DIY or help old people cross roads than drink. As totalitarians, political, and ideological oppression are increasingly unacceptable to the world community, I would hope that the winds of glasnost currently sweeping through Eastern Europe would swiftly wash their way across the Himalayan mountain range.

Yours faithfully,  
FALKLAND  
(Vice-Chairman, Parliamentary Alcohol Services Group),  
House of Lords,  
March 5.

### Soviet reshuffle

From Mr Nick Winter  
Sir, Mr Nicolas Mynett (February 27) asks why his favourite drink in Germany has changed its name from "Vodka Gortachov" to "Vodka Pushkin". After a few glasses of the stuff the answer becomes clear. The politician is using the poet to pursue his foreign policy, as I can demonstrate with my rough translation of some lines from Pushkin's 1831 poem "To the Standerers of Russia". (The original can be found in the 1974 Moscow 10-volume edition of Pushkin's works, vol. 2, pp. 269-70):

What has angered you? The unrest in Lithuania?  
Leave it alone, it's a quarrel for us  
Slavs themselves.  
An old, domestic quarrel, well hung  
in the balance of Fate,  
A question which you will not  
resolve.

Mr Gorbachov is clearly a man with whom one might not only do business, but also have a cosy literary chat over a bottle or two... Yours etc.,  
NICK WINTER,  
51 King Street,  
Aldeburgh, Suffolk,  
March 3.











## HEALTH

New medical techniques but old laws spell trouble for childless couples. Thomson Prentice investigates

The laws of nature and of man seem to have conspired cruelly against Sally Robertson, leaving her and her family stranded as a test case somewhere between the two.

Mrs Robertson, now in her early thirties, desperately wanted to be a mother, but discovered as a teenager that she was physically incapable of bearing children. Yesterday she cradled twin babies in her arms and spoke defiantly of her right to call them her own.

According to the law, a mother is the person from whose womb a child is born. But in Mrs Robertson's case, the infants, a boy and a girl, emerged from the womb of a surrogate mother.

They are test-tube babies, conceived from Mrs Robertson's eggs and her husband's sperm after *in-vitro* fertilization (IVF) in an infertility clinic. The two embryos were then implanted in the surrogate mother and the twins were born last summer. Soon afterwards the surrogate willingly handed them over to Mrs Robertson and her husband John, aged 32, a computer operator, and was paid £4,000 in a private arrangement (commercial agencies arranging surrogacies are illegal in Britain).

The crucial question is: who are the lawful parents of the babies? Normally in surrogacy arrangements, the surrogate's own eggs are fertilized with sperm from the husband of the commissioning couple through artificial insemination. In these cases the couple have to adopt the children; otherwise, the surrogate mother and her husband are regarded as the legal parents.

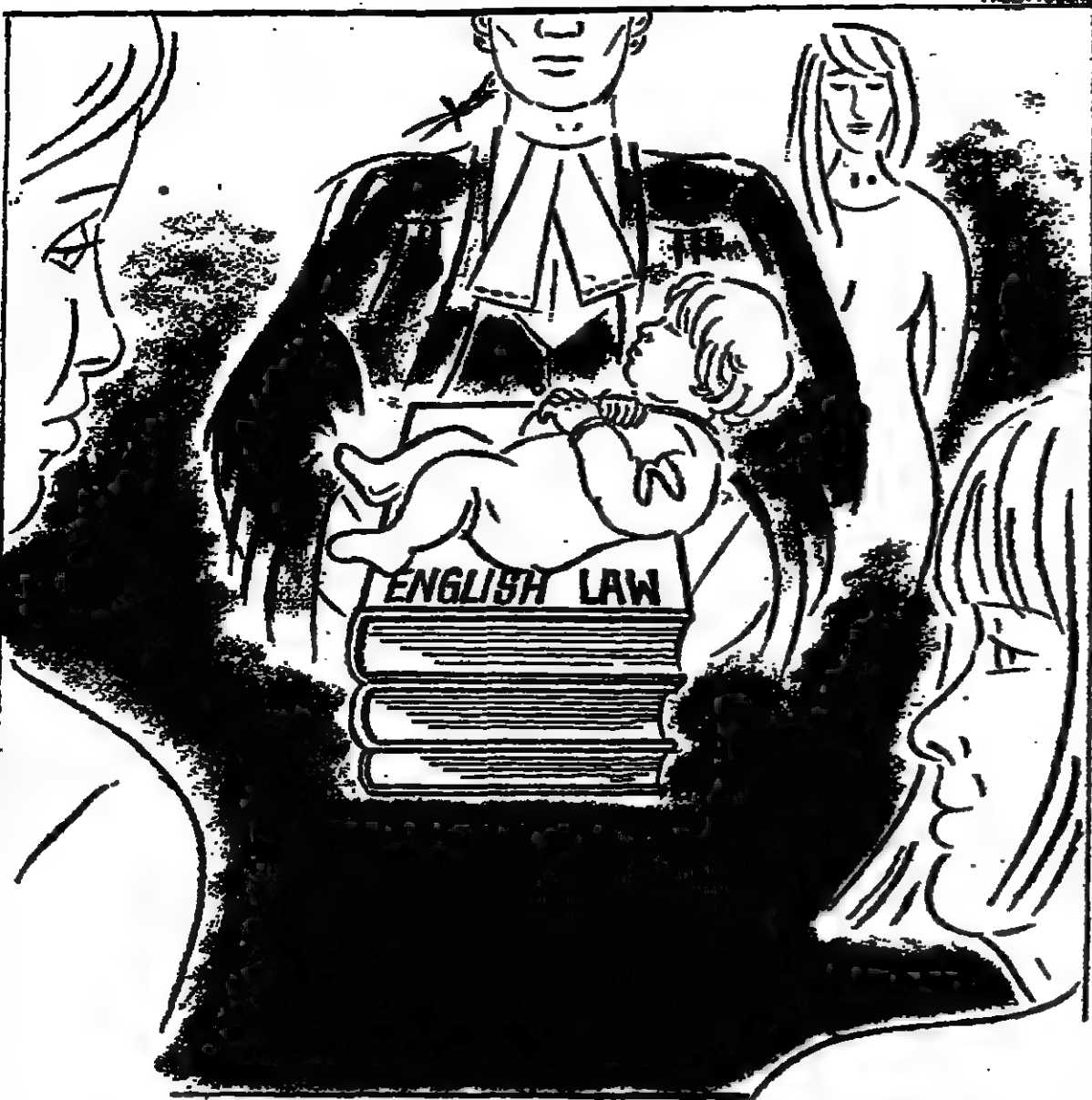
But the Robertsons' case is possibly unique. They claim that since they created the embryos, they are the genetic parents of the twins, and that this should be recognized in law. Now the twins' birth has sparked an emotional legal battle which may redefine motherhood, and could lead to changes in the Human Fertilization and Embryology Bill, soon to be debated in the House of Commons, and has implications for all couples contemplating surrogacy.

Concerned by the legal ramifications of the Robertson case, the local authority where they live has intervened. It says the couple have no legal rights towards the children. Even though the surrogate mother and her husband have relinquished all interest in the babies, the authority argues that they remain the lawful parents, and is seeking a High Court ruling.

While the case works its way slowly through the courts, a legal injunction aimed at protecting the children prevents any of the participants from being identified publicly — Sally and John Robertson are not the couple's real names.

But their dilemma is all too real. "When we married five years ago we knew that I could not give birth. I had been born with ovaries, but no womb," Mrs Robertson says. "We wanted to create our own children so much, and decided the only possible answer was to find a surrogate mother." The couple contacted an agency in Scotland, run by a woman who had herself had a baby through a surrogate mother some years earlier. She now advises couples in a similar position.

The agency introduced Mrs Robertson to Elizabeth Blake (another pseudonym), who had given birth to three children of her own and was



## Babes not out of the legal wood

now, at the age of 25, prepared to act as a surrogate mother. "This was wonderful news for us. I liked Elizabeth and trusted her. It couldn't be just anyone who was going to carry my baby," Mrs Robertson says.

The couple then had to find a doctor who was willing to perform *in-vitro* fertilization for them. This proved more difficult, because they feel the law on surrogacy agreements is unclear, many doctors are reluctant to become involved in such cases. Although the practice itself is not illegal, the British Medical Association has deep misgivings and is currently preparing new ethical guidelines for doctors.

Eventually the Robertsons persuaded a specialist to help, but only after he had taken their case several times to his hospital's ethical committee. When the committee finally agreed, Mrs Robertson's eggs were removed from her ovaries and mixed with her husband's sperm. Two resultant embryos were then implanted in Mrs Blake's womb. The treatment cost about £2,000.

Remarkably (because only a minority of IVF embryo implantations result in full-term pregnancies), the technique worked perfectly, and Mrs Blake was told she was expecting twins. During the pregnancy the Robertsons made the 300-mile round trip to visit her several times.

Last summer, the babies were born seven weeks prematurely, and were

admitted to a hospital's intensive care unit. The Robertsons first saw the twins when they were four hours old. They were able to look, but not touch, and they were not allowed to be alone with them.

Mrs Blake had little sight of the infants. She held them only once, when they were three weeks old, and then handed them to the Robertsons. "I never thought of myself as their mother, and I still don't. I never will," she said yesterday. "I knew what I was doing and I did it for their real parents. I have absolutely no regrets."

As the babies improved in intensive care, life for the Robertsons was rapidly becoming more difficult. Hospital officials and social workers who became involved were perplexed by the surrogacy arrangement, which had no legal status. The Robertsons were asked to sign application forms to become the children's foster parents. Reluctantly, they signed. "It was a compromise to allow us to take the children home. We didn't see ourselves as foster parents," Mr Robertson says. They are even more adamant that they will not apply to adopt the children, although that might be the easiest course.

The two firms of solicitors acting for the families are in full agreement that the law should recognize the Robertsons as the genetic parents and

grant them that status. Both acknowledge the great hazard in all surrogacy arrangements: that the surrogate mother will change her mind and decide she wants to keep the baby. If so, the law must be able to defend her, they believe. But if no such problem arises, the genetic parents should be recognized as the father and mother.

Yesterday Mr Mark Edmundson, of the Smith Partnership of solicitors in Derby, representing Mrs Blake, said: "We concur with the views of the couple and we are fully behind their efforts. Our view is that the children are rightfully theirs."

Professor Ian Craft, a leading infertility and IVF specialist at the Humana Hospital Wellington in London, says: "How lacking in compassion can the law be? I have great sympathy for those people who need surrogacy. If there is a medical case for it, such as this, where the mother has no womb, I think surrogacy can be quite justifiable."

According to the agency, there are many such couples. "We have seven other women, all born without a womb, asking for our help. The law needs to be changed to help them in particular," its spokesman said.

The Robertsons have nowhere to go now but to the High Court. "We have been through a lot, but we are survivors, and so are our babies," Mrs Robertson says. "We love them and want to protect their future, and we aren't going to give up now."

## Tense and irritable

### MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Kingsley Amis's recent frank comments in the Press about problems facing sufferers from the irritable bowel syndrome will please gastroenterologists, who have found that a not unusual reluctance to talk about bowel diseases has discouraged the public from supporting hospitals which make a speciality of treating them. This lack of funding has inhibited research.

In the United States irritable bowel disease accounts for around half of all referrals to specialist gastroenterologists. The multiplicity of its symptoms, which mimic many other diseases, but a consistent lack of specific physical signs mean that diagnosis can be made only by exclusion, after lengthy investigations, of other, more sinister troubles. The Edwardians knew the irritable bowel syndrome as spastic colitis, and by the inter-war years it had become known as mucous colitis; but whatever name the disease is known by, it is associated with lower abdominal pain, flatulence, a feeling of bloating, diarrhoea and/or constipation — these last two symptoms may alternate. The diarrhoea may be precipitous, often triggered

by eating rich food, or having a meal when tensions have been increased by those present — dinner with the boss, or an exciting companion of the opposite sex, will do little for the sufferer's digestion and may lead to an undignified rush from the table. This intestinal hurry is due to an oversensitivity of the gut to the hormones gastrin and cholecystokinin.

It can be difficult to distinguish the symptoms of diverticulitis from those of the irritable bowel syndrome, but patients are usually so relieved once they are assured that their condition improves. Long-term treatment includes a change of diet to a spiced, bland menu, with less alcohol and little coffee. For those troubled by flatulence, beans, other legumes and vegetables of the cabbage family should be avoided. Recently there has been emphasis on the personality of the patients, for although it is well recognized that sufferers from irritable bowel syndrome are unusually tense people, it is increasingly becoming acknowledged that this tension may conceal an underlying, treatable depressive state.

### Coffee break



The latest report in the *British Medical Journal* on the association between excessive coffee drinking and coronary artery disease has been widely publicized.

and an increased risk of heart disease comes from Norway. Over the past 10 years there have been numerous research studies which have demonstrated this possible link, but this one perhaps provides the best evidence yet that the dangers of coffee may in part be independent of its proven influence on serum cholesterol.

The Norwegian doctors admit that differences in the statistics collected from the various groups of people studied make it impossible, without further research, to state categorically that excessive coffee drinking is a factor in the causation of coronary arterial disease; but the evidence is strong enough to make it wise for people to limit their coffee consumption to fewer than five cups (not office mugs) a day.

Other evidence suggests that coffee is more harmful when it has been stewed, brewed or boiled — however reassuring and homely the sound of coffee percolating on the hob is, it may in fact turn out to be an ominous danger signal.

Coffee drinking has been the subject of so many recent research projects that the magazine *Pulse* has summarized the advantages and disadvantages which have been claimed for it. All research into coffee drinking is confused by the influence of other lifestyle factors, such as smoking, drinking, occupation, personality and diet, which are linked to heavy coffee drinking; but even so, they have come to some conclusions. Coffee drinking does have benefits as well as debits. *Pulse* quotes the *Archives of Medicine*, which reported that it improves an older person's sex life. In a series of over 800 marriages where both partners were over 60, 62 per cent of regular coffee drinkers still had an active sex life compared with

### Mite nights

A mattress or pillow makes the ideal environment for the house mite, the microscopic insect whose feces trigger many attacks of asthma and allergic rhinitis (runny noses). Bedding is not the only home of the mite; as fitted carpets have spread, so has the incidence of asthma. Carpets can be periodically washed with a solution containing an acaricide toxic to the mite, or even replaced by hardwood floors, but it is difficult to do without bedding. Freezing mattresses with liquid nitrogen proved to be an interesting experiment, but an impracticable solution in the normal household; nor do asthmatic children welcome any suggestion that they should sleep on a sweet-inducing plastic mattress.

Dr Ashley Woodcock of the Department of Respiratory Medicine at the Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester has thought of a possible way of reducing their impact. Dr Woodcock reasoned that if clothes could be treated to make them weatherproof and yet permeable to vapour — "able to breathe", as the advertisements describe them — so should it be equally possible to cover duvets, mattresses and pillows in a vapour-permeable waterproof fabric, which would stop the penetration of the house mite, make cleaning easy, and yet be comfortable to lie on.

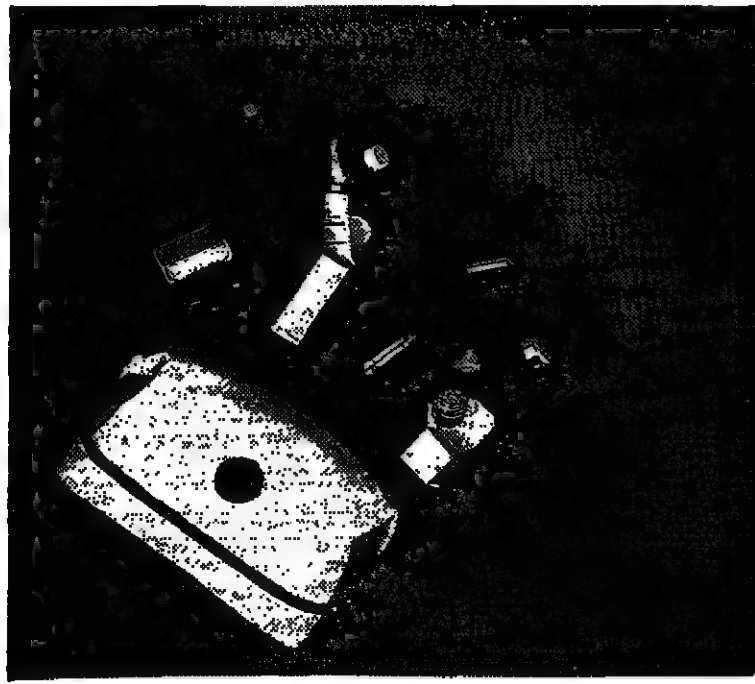
Research published in *The Lancet* by Ashley Woodcock and his colleagues Stephen Owen, Margaret Morganstern and John Hepworth, has shown that if a mattress, duvet and pillow are made from material treated with Ventflex, a polyurethane solution, the level of house mite antigen falls below that at which it is likely to cause asthma in susceptible patients. The *Lancet* is not alone in its interest in this research, for Stamberland Medicare is planning to produce Ventflex-coated covers for mattresses, duvets and pillows for around £100, a small price to pay to avoid breathless nights.

### Late weight



Some increase in weight as a woman grows older is almost invariable, even if not inevitable. If the excess fat is carried on the abdomen and chest but spares the hips, thighs and limbs, thereby giving her an apple shape, she is not only more likely to develop cardiovascular disease, as has been known for some time, but also cancer of the breast. A report in the *American Medical Journal*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, has shown a close relationship, thought to be due to variations in hormonal levels, between the likelihood of developing breast cancer and heavy abdominal fat deposit.

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## Drag of a drug

I became director of Quit, formerly the National Society of Non-Smokers, in 1987. Before that I was a research biochemist, so I have a very good understanding of how smoking affects the body. No Smoking Day (March 14) is a very busy time for us, but every day we get about 500 calls on the smokers' Quitline (01-323 0505), which smokers can call from anywhere in the country for counselling and advice.

I was 17 when I started smoking. I think I started mainly because I thought it would help to keep my weight in check, and I then carried on smoking for seven years, until 1984. I smoked 30 on a good day, 60 on not such a good one. When I stopped I was absolutely panicky-stricken because I felt that my crutch had been taken away and I wasn't quite sure how I was going to cope, particularly with my studies.

The main motivation for stopping was wanting to be in control of my life. I hated having it ruled by a packet of tobacco and paper.

I remember the day well. At 3am the night before I was sitting up smoking and thinking how nice it would be to feel healthier and a bit more active and not have pains in my legs. In the morning I got up and I was late for a meeting so I didn't have time for a cigarette — normally I would have had at least two before I even got out of bed. I rushed for the Tube, got to my meeting and by the time I got out it was 11.30 and I'd not had a cigarette. I checked the packet into a bin, and thought: "That's it. I've stopped."

The first thing I did that afternoon was to drop half of an experiment in the laboratory sink because my



PENNY ROSS

hands were shaking so much. I think it might have been withdrawal, and I was drinking an awful lot of coffee. I was certainly in a bit of a state. I felt very depressed, largely because I had a misconception about what smoking was doing for me.

A lot of people say that they enjoy smoking, but it's not that that makes giving up so difficult. It's the fact that not smoking is so unpleasant for a smoker. There are slight withdrawal symptoms, but once you've broken the nicotine addiction you can cope just as well as you did before — if not better — and not than losing something which is of positive value to you in managing stress.

I experienced dizziness, which happens to a lot of smokers when they first stop, probably because they get an increased amount of oxygen to the brain. But I really felt that I was going to do it. I was absolutely determined that I was going to stop smoking. By hook or by crook I was going to get there, and I went around thinking: "I've stopped for an hour, I've stopped for two hours, I've stopped for two weeks. It really started to get an awful lot easier and gradually it got to the point where it was more or less effortless."



PENNY ROSS

Initially, the great thing was getting my sense of smell back. I'm not so inclined to feel that I just want to sit around all day and do nothing.

I put on about half a stone, but within about a year of stopping I'd lost that without any effort at all. I didn't substitute food for cigarettes. I think there's always a danger that if you do that you end up "smoking" chocolate eclairs.

The main thing I did was take a lot of extra exercise. I started to swim every day, and I've kept that up, on and off, ever since. I changed my diet to make it healthier — lower in fat and higher in fibre.

I think I deal with stress better now. When you're smoking you tend to con yourself into thinking that you're coping when all you're actually doing is wasting time smoking and not tackling the problem. I try to keep reasonably active — I walk the dog, which is quite helpful in that I come to my desk with a general sense of well-being. I talk problems out. I don't bottle them up. We teach relaxation techniques like deep breathing on our courses, and very occasionally I use them.

Interview by Pamela Newicks



## Campus critic takes a bow

Hundreds of students entered the writing competition in the weekly Campus column during the Christmas holidays. Their brief was to review an entertainment, either performed or broadcast. Cinema, television, theatre and music were all covered. An entire class of A level English students reviewed *Only Fools and Horses*, the National Theatre and the ESC came under scrutiny; so did *Stiff* and *Dead* and

*Grange Hill*. Some chose jazz, others orchestral music. The top prize of a computer worth £4,000 will go to the writer judged the best Campus Critic, and there is another computer for the runner-up. Sheridan Morley, our television critic, judged the reviews; his comments on a new generation of student critics, including full details of the winners and their prizes, will be published in *The Times* on Saturday.



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CENTURION - DIFFERENTLY DELICIOUS



## BOOKS

# Wilde's best fan

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the first life of the dilettante who made a career out of the importance of always being with Oscar

Robert Ross was present at Oscar Wilde's arrest and — like a good valet — went away to pack a bag for him. Ross was there again on the day Wilde was released, raising his hat as Wilde made his dreary progress through the Court of Bankruptcy, handcuffed, with head bowed. Ross was with Wilde in exile. It was Ross who fetched the priest who received Wilde into the Roman Catholic Church on his deathbed. Ross was present at the funeral and supervised the removal of Wilde's body from its coffin for reburial at Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. Finally Ross's own ashes were consigned to their own chamber, ordered Ross from Epstein, within the tomb of Wilde.

Such impeccable devotion always seems a little boring, and Ross's reputation has suffered through the years from the obvious comparison with Lord Alfred Douglas, a much more colourful, more irascible and entertaining character. But this new biography, the first full life of Ross, shows that he too could be slippery, pugnacious, and reckless. Oscar signed himself once "with best love, dear horrid irritating Robbie". Maureen Borland is a Rosset — she cannot abide Lord Alfred — and she does him a great service in bringing out his horridness, and showing what it was in Ross that irritated Wilde.

Ross was always an outsider. He was born in France and spent his early years in Canada. All his life he spoke with a soft transatlantic accent. He was ashamed and secretive about his childhood, apparently having suffered agonies from being dressed in the "particularly hideous" Ross tartan. By the time he got to Cambridge he was already set on notoriety, and had begun inventing the inscription for his gravestone: "Here lies one whose name is writ in hot water." Light, loyal, homosexual, with a taste for histrionics: he found his role for life as the friend of Oscar Wilde.

Did Ross in fact initiate Wilde into homosexual practices? Richard Ellmann, in his biography of Wilde, maintains the 17-year-old Ross was a determined seducer, introducing Wilde to the oral and intercrural techniques he pursued so obsessively and finally disastrously. Borland denies there is evidence for this, and uses as an argument for its unlikelihood the guileless friendship that sprang up after Wilde's death between Ross and Wilde's two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan. Curiously, Ellmann uses almost that same argument as proof of Ross's sense of responsibility towards the family of someone he had led into homosexual activity. Of the two, Ellmann's version seems to me most likely: most in

## WILDE'S DEVOTED FRIEND

A Life of Robert Ross 1869-1918

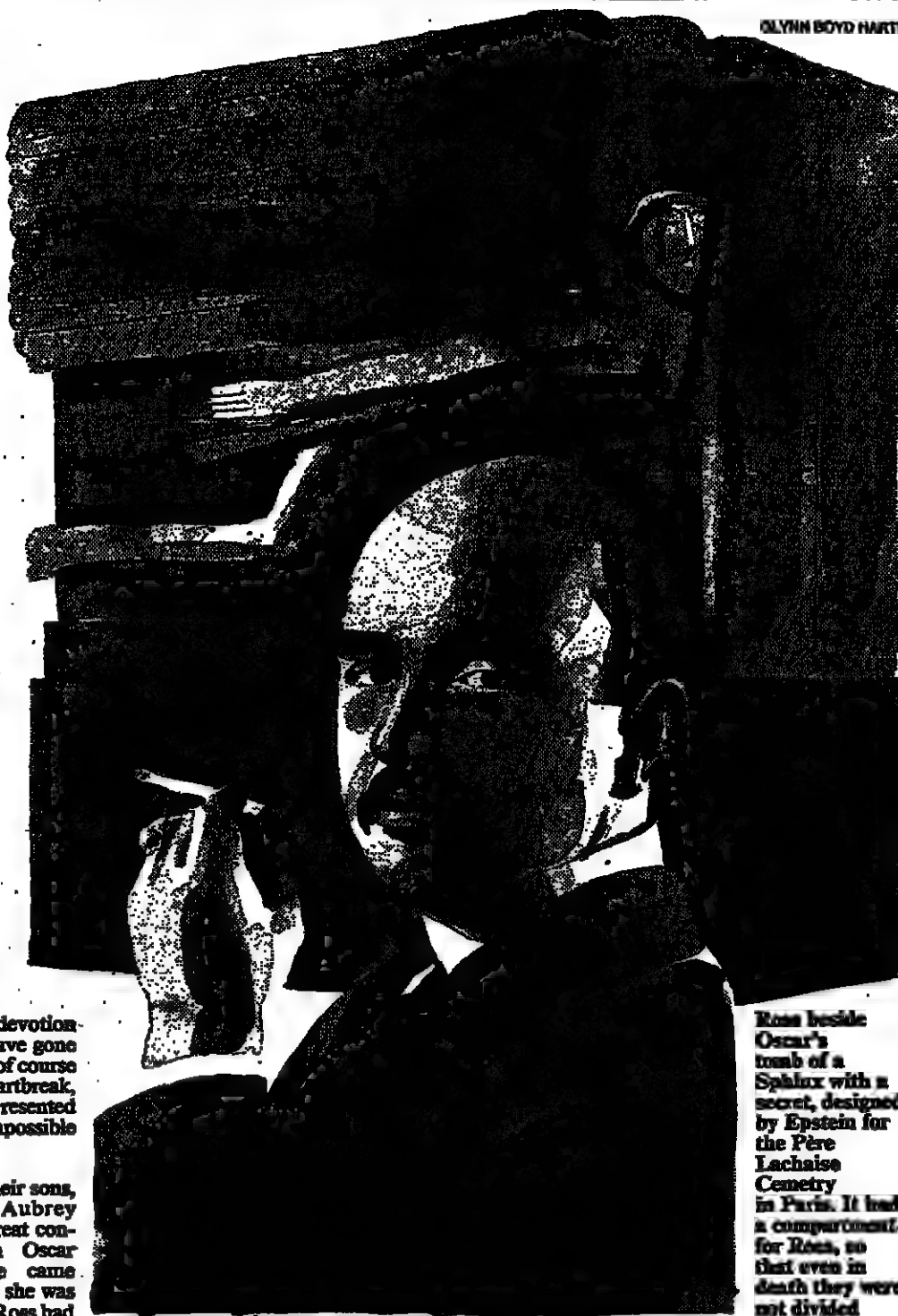
By Maureen Borland  
Lennard Publishing, £16.95

tune with Ross's own ambivalence, obliquity. "Although not a moral man neither was he immoral", as Robert Ross described himself with nervy accuracy.

Ross's story is a painful one. Wilde was much less cautious, more sexually promiscuous, and led him an enormous dance, à la Guy Burgess. Borland claims convincingly that he never recovered fully from the emotional wounds of Wilde's onset of passion for Lord Alfred Douglas. As a friend of Ross's remonstrated: "It is very rare to find such complete devotion and I fear, dear Oscar, that you have gone very near breaking his heart." Yet of course Ross had a perverse longing for heartbreak, sacrifice, self-obliteration, and resented friends who did not make impossible demands.

Fathers trusted him with their sons, not always wisely. Aubrey Beardsley's mother had great confidence in Ross. Even Oscar Wilde's wife Constance came rather to depend on him, although she was aware of his underlying trickiness. Ross had a kind of cosiness, about which Wilde would tease him. "I love middle-class trickiness," he told him and encouraged him to go on sending letters that sounded like Jane Austen. And indeed Ross's peculiar and interesting mixture of extreme good judgement and judgement so absurd it is difficult to credit belongs particularly to the homosexual middle class.

Professionally, as art critic and gallery director, Ross's perceptiveness was acute. He befriended Aubrey Beardsley, persuading Oscar Wilde to commission Beardsley to illustrate *Salome*. He supported Roger Fry. He was also an early admirer of Gill in his bronze madonna phase. ("Take her home," he suggested to an undecided customer, with that airy generosity so typical of Ross.) His personal life was awash with bitter feudings: Ross has up to now been seen as Lord Alfred Douglas's victim, hounded through the courts on vicious trumped-up charges of sodomy, anarchy, and socialism.



OLYVIA BOYD HART

Ross inside Oscar's tomb, with a secret, designed by Epstein for the Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris. It had a compartment for Ross, so that even in death they were not divided

But there was a sense in which he was a willing victim. "Litigation" was the recreation entered in *Who's Who*. His duties as Wilde's literary executor brought him public humiliation. He was frequently defeated. He would not deny the practice of homosexuality, since this would have meant repudiating Wilde.

Maureen Borland belongs to the speculative school of biographers. If Robert Ross had not met Oscar Wilde, he might have become Director of the National Gallery, or curator of the Wallace Collection, or (goodness!) Surveyor of the Royal Pictures. If Ross and Douglas had been able to agree, they could have grown old and content together as they reminisced about their days as Wilde's acolytes. Well, yes, they might, they might. But with such vacillations Borland is undermining the strength of her own book. Once Ross and Oscar meet there is a terrible inevitability in the events.

People have written better on aspects of Robert Ross: Peter Ackroyd on the sweetness of his character, "the sweetness of those without ambition"; Hugh Brogan on the *De Profundis* case and Arthur Ransome; Ann Thwaite on Ross's strange relationship with Edmund Gosse. Osbert Sitwell, in six pages of *Noble Essences*, sums up Ross's purring charm and smooth subversiveness with much more sparkle than Borland in 300.

But we must be grateful for such diligent research, and for Borland's detailed, patient evocation of a world that holds a special fascination for a woman. It is the secret garden that has always been denied us. Ross's flat in Half Moon Street with its mellow subdued tones, the *belles lettres* in the bookcase, the fresh figs on the table, Egyptian cigarettes, tins of biscuits, and boxes of Turkish delight. Siegfried Sassoon is there to spend a quiet evening. Ascending the stairs is the youthful Noël Coward.

# Poison in suburban jest

Nigel Williams's comedy of suburban manners, set in leafy SW19, can be recommended for transforming the boring, daily rattle along the District Line's Wimbledon service. Once-mild speculation about fellow travellers turns into snirking conclusion: the large man opposite is surely Surveyor with Huge Gut and Drink Problem from No 24b Maple Drive? And yet, lots of passengers stay unnoticed, like Henry Farr, hero of *The Wimbledon Poisoner*, who gets off at Blackfriars for a solicitor's office.

Farr is a self-confessed Average Citizen; a white, middle-aged man who lives at 54 Maple Drive with nagging wife and untalented daughter. He does a weekly shop at Waitrose, buys his socks from M & S, and in his spare time fills in income tax forms or works at his nine-volume *Complete History of Wimbledon*. This of course is familiar fictional territory, as Farr would be the first to admit. Being fat, 40, having one's wife and job is normal; he longs to be interesting. He fantasizes about swapping Elinor and Maisie and 54 Maple Drive for some villa with a swimming pool in Marbella complete with leggy blonde with a first in physics and an insatiable appetite for sex in strange positions, but resolves instead to kill his wife.

With comic-strip ease Farr obtains some lethally undetectable poison and serves up Chicken Thallium, only for Elinor to pass the plate on to an unexpected guest who eats it, cops it, and supplies the venue for Farr's next attempt — the suburban funeral party. Soon he has four deaths on his conscience, and Detective Inspector Rush CID at his door enquiring about a certain Victorian Wimbledon poisoner. Could Rush be another local historian, or is he playing a game to elicit a confession?

Up to this point, the author has allowed his reader to sit back and enjoy a cracking display of black comedy, indulged with set-piece after set-piece (not to mention hyphen after upper-case letter). It is very, very funny; the writing is sprightly, the caricatures spot on, and the contemporaneity teasing. But as farce gives way to murder-investigation, the reader is prodded rudely into action: what is all this poison business about anyway? One feels obliged to have a go at analysing the implications of the metaphor — the poisoning of the environment with chemicals, of Britain with immigrants, of the mind with therapy, of happiness with middle-class ambition.

## FICTION

Sarah Edworthy

### THE WIMBLEDON POISONER

By Nigel Williams  
Faber, £12.99

### SOME CAN WHISTLE

By Larry McMurty  
Constable, £12.95

### THE COVER ARTIST

By Paul Micou  
Bantam, £12.95

Is the comic protagonist always A-Bumbling-Hero-I figure? Some Can Whistle seems at first to introduce the American version: the happy, helpless, nice guy who is left shrugging his shoulders and asking: "Why is all this happening to me?" Danny Deck leads a reclusive life in Texas, having made a fortune from *Al and Sal*, his 198-episode "top-grossing TV sitcom". Pretty well the only humans he talks to are movie stars who leave elaborate monologues on his answering machine.

But then TR, the daughter Deck has never seen, arrives with her two children, Bo and Jesse: one lover, Maddy, who is a failed burglar; and another, Earl Dee, who is an all-too-successful psychopath. TR brings her father all the domestic crises and worries, the family fun, discord, tragedies — in short, all the stuff he had to imagine to write "Al and Sal" — and his complacency is quite literally shot through.

The Cover Artist is a less successful version of the "funny and moving" school, though Paul Micou has targeted a few totally real Americans in his tale of Oscar Lemoine, celebrated nude caricaturist for *Lowdown* magazine and of Elizabeth, his painting dog, an exponent of Canine Expressionism. The two move between the South of France, where Oscar is taken up by the libertine Euro-rich, and New York, where he watches the burn-out of his all-American, Harvard-hero Wall Street brother.

There is much fun with an "acc" TV reporter and the satirical magazine (religious cartoon-strips called "Nun of the Above" etc.), but I was too often diverted by questions like why the dog isn't in quarantine, and how Veronique can be so beautiful when short, shock-white hair and unattractively green eyes sound more like the features of an alien.

## NEW HARDBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books:

*The Berg Companion*, edited by Douglas Jarman (Macmillan, £29.50). *The Building of Castle Howard*, by Charles Saumarez Smith (Faber, £17.99). Howard, Vanburgh, Hawkmoor, and the greatest country house. *Measles of Conquest*, Literary Study and British Rule in India, by Gauri Viswanathan (Faber, £20). Eng Lit as camouflage, propaganda, control. *Last Drawings of Christopher Isherwood*, by Don Bachardy, texts by Don Bachardy, John Russell & Stephen Spender (Faber, £25). *The New Cambridge History of India*, The Politics of India Since Independence, by Paul R. Brass. Socio-Religious Reform Movements in British India, by Kenneth W. Jones, and Vijayanagara, by Burton Stein (Cambridge, £22.50, £18.50, and £19.50). Latest vols in vast panorama. *On God's Side*, A Life of George Tyrrell, by Nicholas Savoyevsky (Oxford, £30). Modernist Jesuit condemned, 1907, and excommunicated. *The Passion Play*, From the N. Town Manuscript, edited by Peter Meredith (Longman, £40). Precious 15th-century East-Anglian source. *A Shout in the Street*, The Modern City, by Peter Jukes (Faber, £14.99).

## SATURDAY

Louise Brooks (right), Yeltsin's radical memoirs, P. J. Kavanagh's roots, Granta's *New Europe*, paperback fiction



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# New Town jokes

## NOVEL OF THE WEEK

Kenneth Robinson

TITMUSS REGAINED

By John Mortimer

Viking, £13.99

In this sequel to John Mortimer's television novel *Paradise Postponed*, Leslie Titmuss — the wonderfully non-U Tory — procures a pretty widow and an ugly problem. Because he is bored by his job as Secretary of State for Planning, he feels ready to settle down with a nice well-bred wife at the manor house he had bought as a marriage bribe. Then comes the problem — when he finds that his own department is negotiating for a New Town at the bottom of his garden. He cannot bear to upset his fragile Jenny — who loves weeding the grounds in a desultory upper-class way while exploding large gooseberries in her mouth — so he secretly opposes the developers he is expected to support.

At the same time he tries to solve another domestic problem. To overcome his jealousy of Jenny's adored dead husband he presents her with a private detective's evidence of the man's life of lying and lechery. Jenny, who is so delicate that she can hardly raise a beer tankard to her lips, turns surprisingly nasty. "I shall forgive you," she says. "For what you have done to me."

Mr Mortimer is especially good at the subtle collision of personal-

ities, and after hearing this devastating one-liner Leslie Titmuss, who could never accept forgiveness from anybody leaves his wife and house "to go and live in the future". "After all," he says "I made it happen." This future includes the New Town he has

failed to stop. Nobody seems to mind about it — not even Mr Mortimer, whose publishers insist that he has given us his strongest statement yet about modern living.

To me it comes across as a wryly dispassionate statement — with a gratifying lack of political comment — about the marvellously exuberant way we are revitalizing our lives amid hamburger bars, pedestrian precincts, and health-food shops. But I was even more impressed by the author's understatement about modern living.

It was not until I had finished the book that I noticed its blurb was offering "a compelling love story". I promptly flipped back through the pages for any saucy bits I might have missed — pausing for one breathtaking moment when Jenny is said to be admiring her husband's "tail tweaking propensities". As it turns out, he uses these only among consenting politicians. But then I came across John Mortimer's nicely understated account of the lovers' behaviour. "They got on well," he says — and you can almost hear the pounding feet of panting scriptwriters offering television treatments — "in bed."

# Rebel with a cause.

(Boris Yeltsin at Dillons.)



Your only opportunity to meet radical Russian Deputy Boris Yeltsin will be at Dillons Bloomsbury bookstore on Saturday 10th March 2.30-3.30pm when he will be signing copies of his brand new book 'Against the Grain', published by Cape. If you can't be there call 0800 282629 and, if there are any extra copies, we will reserve one for you — on a first come first served basis.

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# Stop the culture cultures

William Reid

## THE RETURN OF CULTURAL TREASURES

By Jeanette Greenfield

Cambridge, £12.50

If not quite ominous, it is certainly perturbing to discover microfiches tucked into a book's back pocket; but in this case there is no need for concern, since Dr Greenfield's invaluable study of an emotive, if minor universal irritation makes a good read. She brings style, enthusiasm, and the mind of an international lawyer to the complex historical, legal, and political issues surrounding that recently named phenomenon, "cultural property", and how and when a vast range of objects came into their current owners' possession.

This naturally leads her to discuss heritage law, national as well as UNESCO recommendations, and Council of Europe conventions, which, sadly, lack the teeth to ensure that property that belongs in law to the inhabitants of its place of origin is returned, however loud the squeals of the current owner. It rarely is, "for there is in this matter no magnanimity without duress". Many museum directors could confirm that such duress is common, and does not always come from foreign governments and their agencies. On a minor scale, I have had to resist Whitehall pressure to become a "broker in the international goodwill trade", and help to make short-term capital out of the permanent loss of a valued exhibit.

What could easily be a dry-as-dust subject is made as interesting as it is informative by the nature of the leading actors. Appellants and "looters" alike are seen without exception as obsessive personalities, whose ranks include as disparate a cast as you could find in any antiquarian plot: flashy, political Mahraux collector; General Moshe Dayan, as ruthless as an illegal digger as he was as a soldier.

Nine maps showing donor and destination countries confirm the global nature of the problem, and suggest that the *biens culturels* trade will be reduced only by drastic action like that which saved the Mountain Gorilla. One feels for poor UNESCO and its anrophied museum wing, ICOM, when reading reports that an English peer of the realm has commissioned Sotheby's Holdings Inc., New York, to sell in Zurich a silver hoard of unknown but probably Balkan origin, bought from a Lebanese dealer under the agis of an export

licence the auctioneers believe to be "absolutely valid". Among examples of the activities of those who follow a trade that existed before the last stone was laid in the pyramid at Giza, are this year's armed assault on Heraklion's treasury, and the reminder that more than one object of art or antiquity is stolen in Italy for resale or ransom every hour.

As Dr Greenfield makes clear in a book of balanced judgement, with little sonance of grinding axes, it is not unusual to find several parties to each act of removal or restitution: conspirators of every social and intellectual level, driven by an amalgam of cupidity, envy, professional conceit, ambition, and political opportunism, but rarely by a sense of duty. Anyone seeing the evidence of some unknown archaeological site, as it spills from an indignant Iranian's bandana to be sold for just enough to encourage further ravages, knows that the laws interpreted here are powerless to ensure that when the skull of Peking Man II comes to light it will not end up in a cabinet of curiosities of less evidential value than Elias Ashmole's.

This is a book for everyone concerned about Earth's scientific, historic, and artistic heritage: not least the officials who advise the Minister for the Arts and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

# LESLIE TITMUSS returns in JOHN MORTIMER'S incisive comedy of manners TITMUSS REGAINED



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## THE ARTS / FILM

The Fabulous Baker Boys, Shadow Makers, The War of the Roses, Renegades, Plaff! and The Summer of Aviya

## Seducing the small-timers

CINEMA

David Robinson

One of the most venerable Hollywood plots is the show-business triangle: the story of a tight-knit professional team broken up by emotional strains when a woman comes on the scene. *The Fabulous Baker Boys* (15, Odeon Haymarket) — 27-year-old Steve Kloves's first film as writer-director — gives the old story new life and several unexpected twists.

For a start, the Baker Boys are irredeemably small-time, a tired two-piano act playing one-night stands in hotel lounges and cut-price resorts. When the bookings dry up, to the point when they are actually paid not to appear, they decide to take on a singer. The arrival of Susie Diamond (Michelle Pfeiffer) gives a lift to their professional fortunes but puts intolerable strains on their 30-year-old partnership.

None of the characters is quite what appears on the surface. The world-weary cynicism of Jack (Jeff Bridges) cannot altogether conceal his sentiment (generally lavished on his toothless old dog) or his frustrated ambitions to be a serious musician. Frank (Bridges), the self-proclaiming pro,

secretly yearns for domesticity and his garden shed. Nor is Susie, with her brittle ways and debauched eyes, quite the sophisticated she seems.

The combination of exact, economical dialogue and a trio of impeccable performances transforms the old story into a wonderfully observant study of characters, seen against the very distinctive landscape of run-down Washington districts (mostly doubled by cleverly selected Californian locations).

No doubt the real life relationship of Jeff and Beau Bridges explains much of the conviction of the sibling relationship, the alternation of affection and irritation, protectiveness and resentment, and the very complex jealousies stirred by the entry of the third party.

The music is integral to both film and characters. Dave Grusin's score uses vintage hits that accurately characterize the Baker Boys and the venues they play. The Bridges boys hit their keyboards with conviction, and Michelle Pfeiffer is completely believable as the sultry torch singer, wrestling sensually with the piano in a memorable rendering of "Making Whoopee". With richly atmospheric photography by Michael Ballhaus, this is an irresistibly seductive film.

Susie (Michelle Pfeiffer) sings a sensual duet with Jack Baker (Jeff Bridges) in *The Fabulous Baker Boys*

Estlin said: "The splitting of the atom has changed everything we ever made of thinking; thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe". In *Shadow Makers* (PG, Empire 2, Cannon Tottenham Court Road) Roland Joffé recreates the story of the "Manhattan Project" — the making of the atomic bomb — from setting up the Los Alamos research centre to the first tests and the decision to bomb Hiroshima.

It is principally the story of J. Robert Oppenheimer, the physicist from Berkeley put in overall charge of the scientific team, under the military command of General Leslie Groves. At the centre of the film are the continuing clashes between the military mentality and the liberal, scientific mind. Oppenheimer has to battle with Groves's obsessive concern with order, secrecy and security; Groves enjoys the power he acquires through surveillance of Oppenheimer's left-wing associates.

More complex conflicts emerge as the scientists begin to question the morality of the weapon they are making. Groves, the soldier, has no doubt the government's £2m investment in the project must be justified by using the weapon. Oppenheimer resists his conscience — probably driven to

## Breathless tale of the bomb

less by obsession with academic success than by pressure from Groves that is close to blackmail.

After 45 years, the evidence suggests that the Japanese surrender was already inevitable when the bomb was dropped, on the pretext of forcing an end to the war. The film attempts to deal seriously with the issues; but the script — by Joffé himself and Bruce Robinson, who wrote Joffé's earlier film *The Killing Fields* — gets lost among too many themes.

It passes from the Groves-Oppenheimer confrontation to staff relations at Los Alamos; touches inconclusively on Oppenheimer's political sympathies; offers a Popular Science introduction to some technical problems of atomic fission; introduces a fictional romantic liaison which ends with the death by radiation of the young scientist involved; and — rather hurriedly through the question of the celebrated petition the physicists attempted to present to the President and the ultimate decision to use the bomb. Much of the dialogue is too naively expository.

It would have helped if Oppenheimer had been more deeply explored, or portrayed in a more

persuasive and sympathetic way. Dwight Schultz is an actor whose eloquence, along with every movement of his eyes and face, never lets you forget he is acting. By comparison Paul Newman's General Groves is a performance of unimpeachable truthfulness, which never underestimates the man with easy caricatures of the marionette.

Danny DeVito's *The War of the Roses* (15, Odeon Leicester Square) begins as a romantic comedy about an up-and-coming lawyer (Michael Douglas) who falls in love with a gymnast (Kathleen Turner). It starts to turn sour as Douglas's incorrigible male chauvinism collides with Turner's yielding femininity and ultimately escalates into pure horror as the couple embark on a course of mutual destruction.

Before they turn nasty, the teaming of Turner and DeVito pleasantly recalls earlier spots in *Romancing the Stone* and *The Jewel of the Nile*. But without giving away the climactic confrontation to which the conflict progresses, this deeply anti-utopian — and certainly misogynist — film rapidly ceases to be comic. It is something of a shock

when from time to time we return to the purely comic figure of DeVito himself, in the role of a disreputable lawyer, telling the story in flashback.

It is now a Hollywood sport to devise variants of the stock story about a maverick cop who goes underground in private pursuit of a specially detestable wrong-doer and thereby finds himself the quarry of both police and criminals. In *Renegades* (15), the cop (Kiefer Sutherland) is given an unlikely partner in a young reservation Indian (Lou Diamond Phillips), who has lost both his brother and the tribal talismans to the villains.

Apart from this novelty, and some concomitant Indian medicine-magic, it is all familiar: the best cop at the heart of it all, the wholesale destruction of cars in chases that inevitably lead up to the indispensable street market, and the grand finale shoot-out. Director Jack Sholder directs the stunt stuff with panache.

The running gag is Juan Carlos Tabo's *Plaff!* (ICA Cinema) is that the film is full of mistakes — upside-down shots, botched lines, visible clapper-boards — because

it was finished in a hurry to meet an official deadline. This is a perilous joke when the film quite genuinely appears to be thrown together.

It has good humour, though, one or two bright ideas, and some sharp satire against both the waste and discrimination of socialist bureaucracy and popular cults and superstitions. The title describes the noise of an egg hitting the wall: the heroine (enjoyably played by a Cuban star, Daisy Granados) is persecuted by persons unknown who pelt her house. The eventual investigation uncovers a good deal about social and sexual attitudes in contemporary Cuba.

*The Summer of Aviya* (PG, Phoenix East Finchley) is an autobiographical oddity. The Israeli actress Gila Almagor based a novel on her own childhood, then developed the story, by way of a solo stage show, to a screenplay, now directed by Eli Cohen.

Almagor plays a woman (based on her own mother) whose sufferings in Auschwitz have left her mentally unstable. The film relates the events of one summer which the woman, briefly released from mental hospital, spends with her lonely and fatherless little daughter Aviya. The charming, natural playing of the child actress Neiva Cohen offsets Almagor's tendency to excess.

## Milking the memories

Geoff Brown on the pitfalls of presenting nostalgic newsreel footage in video packages

The selling pitch is breathless: "Never has there been a video product with such mass appeal — with millions of potential purchasers... Watchable hour after hour after hour." What can this be? Certainly not *Shoah*, the Holocaust epic, or the complete films of Andy Warhol. Neither does it quite sound like what it is: four decades of British Pathé newsreels sliced and bundled into 40 hour-long videos, each devoted to "a year to remember", stretching from 1930 to 1969. (Pathé's last release was in February 1970). The project is the brainchild of the Packfield Entertainment group — the latest owners of the Pathé archive. The videos will be on sale from April 2 at the magical price of £9.99.

Britain's Top Fifty video sales regularly include non-fiction material, though historical compilations rarely make the lists. Fitness videos are the thing, yet there is a market for popular history; newsreel and television archives exist in abundance. The question is, how best can they be intelligently and profitably marketed?

The easy temptation is to round up the usual stories (Chamberlain waving that ship of paper, the Queen getting crowned), glue them together with popular music, vaguely in period, and play up the high nostalgia quotient. A group of new cassettes from the Visnews library, offering "music, memories and milestones" of the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, show what can happen when this temptation is blindly indulged.

For British cinema newsreels must be handled with care. Individual cameramen captured events with courage and skill, yet as mirrors of history the newsreels were plainly distorted — most of all during the 1930s, when censorship rules and some covert links with the Conservative government produced bland, hesitant coverage. "General Goering is one of the most popular figures in Germany," a 1935 commentator babbles in the Visnews tape devoted to that tormented decade, "and the nation rejoices in his marriage to a charming bride". Change the names, and the sentence could serve for one of the society weddings at St James's, Piccadilly — events regularly featured beside the British Empire Cocktail Championships, daff fashion shows, and grudging dispatches from the Spanish Civil War. An astute viewer may be able to supply a critical perspective to this jumble of the trite, the ominous, and the awful; the tape itself provides no help.

Visnews's Thirties video — largely drawn from Gaumont-

British and British Paramount newsreels — is a particularly depressing specimen. No dates for the clips are given (a common video failing, this); while the linking commentary only offers dog-eared platitudes.

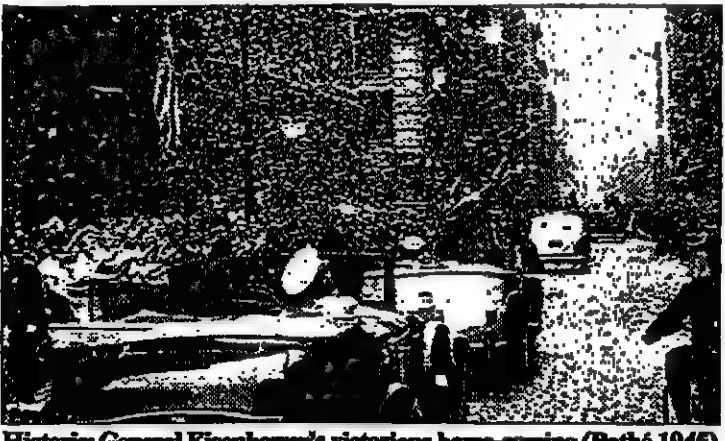
Luckily, the video shelves are also stocked with material — often generated by television itself — which treats the past more thoughtfully. Thames Television's 1975 survey of World War Two, *The World at War*, can be purchased on 12 cassettes, though we lack its BBC predecessor, *The Great War*, aired ten years earlier — a milestone in the way it treated archive footage with respect.

Other material in the shops is more arcane. *Between the Wars*, in eight volumes, offers an American television series from 1978, covering American life in the 1920s and 1930s. There is some gibes, but also analysis and rare footage. Volume Two features absorbing coverage of General Billy Mitchell in 1921 struggling to impress defence chiefs with an aircraft's bombing capabilities. These are tapes you can learn from.

Yesterday's news is also going through the video mincer. The Newsbrief company offers an excellent subscription service, chiefly aimed at schools and overseas organizations, supplying a monthly hour-long digest of world events drawn from material gathered for the BBC's bulletins. At £395 for a year's supply, the tapes also provide an expensive way of catching missed items: where was I when the Californian frog-jumping contest was shown?

Yet Newsbrief, too, now hopes to attract the general video buyer. It has recently issued 1989 — *The Decade's Dramatic Climax*: a two-hour anthology of chiefly momentous events — no Goering wedding or jumping frogs here. Once more we have Kate Adie mingling with death in Tiananmen Square, John Timpon dodging snipers' bullets in Bucharest, Hillsborough, the Alaska oil spill, and Gorbachev times ten. They could be yours for £19.95 (postage included), from Newsbrief, Olympia Bridge Quay, 70 Russell Road, London W14 8YL.

1989, at least, might be worth the outlay. It remains to be seen whether the Pathé haul from 1930 to 1969 will have the same lasting value. "Nostalgia at its finest," Parkfield croons, "The perfect gift." But unless there is a positive effort to treat the newsreel material — and the viewer — intelligently, the tapes might well end up like so many gifts unwrapped with delight, played once, and then, somehow, forgotten.



Historic: General Eisenhower's victorious homecoming (Pathé 1945)

Roland Joffé, director of *The Killing Fields* and the controversial new film *Shadow Makers*, talks to Simon Banner

## Mission to shock America

Judging the success or failure of a film, Roland Joffé believes, should be a matter of measuring the distance between end results and a director's original intention.

In Hollywood on the other hand success or failure is often assessed simply by subtracting the cost of a film's production from total box-office receipts.

Before now, what the British-born Joffé calls "this conundrum of an art that's an industry and an industry that's an art" may not have bothered him unduly. His previous films as a director, *The Killing Fields* and *The Mission*, were generally judged to be both artistic and commercial successes, and it is only with the release of his latest film, *Shadow Makers*, that Joffé and the money men seem to have fallen out.

When it opened on a total of more than 800 cinema screens in

the United States, *Shadow Makers* struggled to recoup even a couple of million dollars of its \$18 million budget and had pretty well closed within a month. Joffé calls the film "a good and interesting and moving piece of work," but to the accountants who rule Hollywood it has the unhappy look of an expensive failure.

Taken from a script by Roland Joffé and Bruce Robinson, *Shadow Makers* is a sombre account of the creation and the dropping of the atomic bomb and centres on the complex relationship between Oppenheimer and the military man who appointed him, General Leslie Groves. The key moment in its Faust-like story of human corruptibility comes

when Oppenheimer consents to carry on working on the bomb even though the war in Europe is over, because for Joffé, the dropping of the atomic bomb was "not an heroic gesture, but, at its most rational, a political act. At its worst, it was purely vanity and ambition, and weakness and lies."

Ironically, the marketing department at Paramount, the studio that made *Shadow Makers*, must take some of the blame for its failure. Joffé's film was originally put out under the title of *Fat Man and Little Boy*, the names of the bombs which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. American audiences, it was later realized, not only failed to understand the title's precise significance, but also believed a film with that title had to be comedy.

Meanwhile, the film's advertising campaign stressed the involvement of the star player, Paul Newman (as General Groves), to the exclusion of almost all other information. Regular Newman fans however were reported distressed to find the salad-dressing king cast so extremely against type as a grim-faced Mephistopheles. "The film could have been marketed differently," Joffé agrees, "but what I think we were finally up against is the fact that so many people go to the cinema not to learn something new, but to be

affirmed in something they already feel. Most Americans think they know what the dropping of the bomb meant and they've romanticized Oppenheimer. They believe that the Manhattan Project was a glorious episode in their history."

Certainly some of the criticism *Shadow Makers* met with in the United States had a suspiciously irrational air to it. Bizarrely, several American commentators suggested that the scientists in the film did not look at all like the real thing. More seriously, Joffé found himself repeatedly charged with simplifying the way the decision to drop the bomb was made.

"So many Americans have to believe that the great and the good

sat down to discuss the dropping of the bomb," he says, "but the whole point is that they didn't. Groves described Truman's attitude as non-interference and that seems to be confirmed by Truman's diaries."

*Shadow Makers*, reviewed above, had its European premiere in competition at the Berlin Film Festival in February and is released in Britain tomorrow. In the meantime, Joffé is continuing with preparations for a new film to be shot in India later this year.

"Clearly you hope for some commercial success with any film," he says, "and I hope *Shadow Makers* will be more successful in Europe than it was in America, but not every film can be a megabuck winner and I think you have to take risks. You have to say this is a story I want to tell and it should be recorded on film. You have to take the gamble."



Risk-taking: Joffé directs Paul Newman playing General Leslie Groves

## Out of Australia into Africa

VIDEOBOX  
Geoff Brown

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or in the case of television films, of first broadcast.

**CROCODILE DUNDEE II** (CIC, PG): Dawdling, largely charmless sequel to the Aussie hit. Paul Hogan is king of the outback, tangling with a drugs baron; Linda Kozlowski returns as his "Sheila". 1988.

**CRY FREEDOM** (CIC, PG): Richard Attenborough's Steve Biko film, speedily released at a bargain price to cash in on Mandela's release. Well-meaning, but more persuasive as an adventure than a political call-to-arms. Kevin Kline as journalist Donald Woods, Denzel Washington as the activist Biko. 1987.

**THE DECEIVERS** (Vestron, 15): Rip-roaring Empire yarn with dark undertones, dashingy fashioned

by director Nicholas Meyer and the Merchant-Ivory company from John Masters's novel about British colonialists in India, faced with the murderous Thuggee cult. With Pierce Brosnan. 1988.

**THE HOLLYWOOD MUSICAL COLLECTION** (Warner): A far-fung group, comprising the classic backstage tale *42nd Street*, with eye-popping Busby Berkeley routines (1933, U); James Cagney strutting his stuff as George M. Cohan in *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942, U); Judy Garland and James Mason riding Hollywood's rollercoaster in *A Star is Born* (1954, U); and *West Side Story* (1961, PG), with two miscegenist leads but wildly energetic choreography.

**JOHN WAYNE: AN AMERICAN LEGEND** (Warner): Howard Hawks's marvellously relaxed and spry *Rio Bravo* (1959, PG) heads the package, with Wayne as the sheriff up against outlaws. *The Alamo* (1960, PG), Wayne's directing debut, displays an elephantine touch, though there is

some rousing siege warfare. Burt Kennedy's *The Train Robbers* (1973, U) is a slight, rambling tale with Wayne dispensing homilies and hunting for stolen gold.

**THE MARX BROTHERS IN A NUTSHELL** (Vestron, U): Television survey of the madcap brood, with generous clips, tasty rare footage, and reminiscences from veteran colleagues. Gene Kelly casts the only light by narrating with a permanent chuckle.

**SAHARA** (RCA/Columbia, PG): Sturdy, romance-free wartime drama, with Humphrey Bogart leading the band of Allied all-sorts to a desert water hole, while Nazis breathe down their necks. Director, Zoltan Korda. 1943.

**W.C. FIELDS STRAIGHT UP** (Vestron, U): Delicious survey of the acrobatic genius, assembled for American television by comedy expert Joe Adamson. Cranked with clips (all identified and dated), laughs and judicious interviews, it leaves you aching to see the complete films again. 1986.

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Hilary Finch

## LONDON

**DON PASQUALE:** Healthy revival with Eric Garret in the title role, Kathleen Battle as the Norma, and Bruno Campanella conducting. Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1006). Tonight, 7.30-10.10pm, £2.50-£24.

**THE MIKADO:** Revival of Jonathan Miller's chic, witty Hollywood-style G & S. James Holmes takes up the baton from Justin Brown for Sat evening. Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-636 3161). Tonight, Sat, Tues, 7.30-10.30pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, £3-£23.

**OTELLO:** Powerful Verdi revival. Elisha Mosheim's production is in good, epic shape. Edward Dornes conducts. Covent Garden, (as above). Tomorrow, Wed, 7.30-10.20pm, £2.50-£22.

**LA TRAVIATA:** Helen Field is an outstanding Violetta and now Bonaventura Bottone as Alfredo. Noel Davis conducts as from Monday. Coliseum, (as above). Tomorrow, Mon, 7.30-10.30pm, £3-£23.

**ANGELIQUE LA VIDA BREVE:** Ibert and Falck duobus illi imaginatively staged by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. GMD, Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-636 8891). Tomorrow, Mon, 7.10-10.10pm, £2.50-£22.

**DAPHNE:** Strauss one-act in a concert performance by the Chelsea Opera Group. Conducted by Norman del Mar, with Kenneth Woolman and Theresa Cahill. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Sun, 7.45-10.10pm, £2-£12.50.

**ELEKTRA:** Götz Friedrich's new production, conducted by Sir Georg Solti with Eva Marton singing the title role, and Marjana Lipovsek as Klytemnestra. Covent Garden, (as above). Mon, 8.40pm, £2.50-£22.

**THE GAMBLER:** Revival of David Pountney's searing Prokofiev production for ENO sees the return of Graham Clark. Ben Edwards makes her company debut conducting. Coliseum, (as above). Wed, 7.30-9.50pm, £3-£23.

**OUTSIDE LONDON**

**COBI FAN TUTTE:** Welsh National Opera, with Valerie Masseron as Fanciulla, Maurine Brown as Desprea and Bryn Terfel as Guglielmo. Sir Charles Mackerras conducts. New Theatre, Cardiff (0222 394844). Tonight, 7.15-10.30pm, £2.50-£25.50.

**DIE FLEDERMAUS:** Opera Northern Ireland's restaging of Helmut Foltz's 1987 production for Welsh National. David Perry conducts a cast including Susan Bullock, Peter Coleman-Wright and Sandra Douglass. Grand Opera House, Belfast (0232 240411). Tonight, Sat, 7.30-10.30pm, £2-£20.

**DON PASQUALE:** Peter Knapp's Traveling Opera. Alan Watt takes the title role as fitness freak in present-day Tuscany. Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 286232). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30-10.15pm, £2.50-£16.

**THE BARBER OF SEVILLE:** Welsh National's busy, humourous co-production with Opera North. Carlo Rizzi conducts. Cast includes Anthony Michaels-Moore, Kate McCarney and Andrew Shore. New Theatre, (as above). Tomorrow, 7.15-9.45pm, £2.50-£25.50.

**LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR:** Opera 89's visually striking production over stretches its young cast, led by Linda Clemens. Charles Fawcett conducts. Cilla Pritchett, Westcliff, Essex (0702 351135). Fri, 7.30-10.15pm, £5.50-£27.50. Messenham, Reading (0734 591591). Wed, 7.30pm, £7-£10.

**LA FORZA DEL DESTINO:** Scottish Opera. John Mauceri conducts a version with Verdi's original Prelude and final scene. Andreas Gruber leads. Playhouse, Edinburgh (031 557 2580). Tues, 6.45-10.15pm, £5-£17.50.

**DER ROSENKAVALEER:** Welsh National Opera's traditional production by Wolfgang Weber is conducted by Meckerras. Several young singers worth watching: Rita Gullis as the Marchschall, Amanda Rooroot as Sophie and Donald Adams as Ochs. Hippodrome, Birmingham (021 622 7480). Tues, 6.30-10.30pm, £11-£30.

## DANCE

John Percival

## LONDON

**RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY:** The London premiere of Marco Cunningham's *Doubles* begins a three-week season, with Ashley Page's colourful treatment of Stravinsky's *Soldier and his Maid* and short works by Alston and Trisha Brown (tonight-Sun). Page's latest creation, *Curriculum*, to a Latin-American score by Orlando Gough, has its London premiere Tuesday and then continues with a new work by Alston, *Dealing With Shadows*, premiered Wednesday.

**EDGE:** Sue McLaren's curious science-fiction amalgam of dance, talk and music by Lindsey Cooper (tonight-Sat) looks the liveliest among this week's entries in the Spring-Landau season. Other contributions by Gregory Nash in a dance, music and video collaboration (Mon) and *Sail Sailing* in two works about women travelling (Tues).

**THE PLACE, DUKES ROAD, LONDON WC1 (01-937 0031), 8pm, 28.**

**OUTSIDE LONDON**

**PRINCE OF THE PAGODA:** The Royal Ballet in Kenneth MacMillan's new ballet. Unseen. Doreen Buxton and Jonathan Cope dance tonight and Saturday evening. Victoria Theatre and Saturday evening. Victoria Theatre, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Sun, 7.45-10.10pm, £2-£12.50.

**ELIZABETH:** Götz Friedrich's new production, conducted by Sir Georg Solti with Eva Marton singing the title role, and Marjana Lipovsek as Klytemnestra. Covent Garden, (as above). Mon, 8.40pm, £2.50-£22.

**THE GAMBLER:** Revival of David Pountney's searing Prokofiev production for ENO sees the return of Graham Clark. Ben Edwards makes her company debut conducting. Coliseum, (as above). Wed, 7.30-9.50pm, £3-£23.

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## Luciano is just the tonic

The great Luciano Pavarotti (right) will be bringing out his great white handkerchief to brush away yet another *furtiva lagrima* next Tuesday when he returns to Covent Garden for a revival of Donizetti's tale of romance and farce in a Basque village, *L'elisir d'amore*.

The Royal Opera management are congratulating themselves on luring back the King of the High Cs, after a six-year absence following a falling out with John Tooley and the old regime. Pavarotti's last appearance there was as Radames in *Aida* in 1984.

His *bel canto* repertoire, in the operas of Bellini and Donizetti, has been particularly carefully nurtured. This is his first *Nemorino* for Covent Garden, though he has sung the role with this conductor, Marcello Panni, at the Met recently, and appeared in this production in Berlin last year.

John Copley returns to direct it, and has lined up a supporting cast, all of whom are well sung to it. Daniela Mazzacchi is the fickle



and capricious land-owner who rejects the poor farmer Nemorino; Rolando Panerai is the irrepressible quick Dr Dulcamara from whom the magical elixir is bought; Ingrida Wixell returns as the bombastic recruiting officer, Sergeant Belcore; and Judith Howarth as Gnanetta passes on all the village gossip. *L'elisir d'amore*, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1066). Tuesday, 7.30-10.15pm, £5 to £28.

money for the Arvon Foundation. Brian Thomas, Shepherd's Bush Green, London W12 (01-602 3703). Mon, 8pm. Tickets minimum £5.

**THE HARD EDGE CLUB:** Features Ferenc Azzam, M.C. Kitz and M.C. Rosh (rappers from Staveley), Sam and Manu with Javens, Alice Thompson and Don Wilson.

**THE RED LINE:** 20 Great Windmill Street, near Piccadilly Circus, W1 (Lepus). Mon, 8.30pm, £2.50 (£1 concs).

**SHEKA MACKAY:** Short stories including *Dreams of Dead Women's Hands*, her latest collection. The Voice Box, Festival Hall, Level 5, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 8800). Wed, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs).

**JO SHAPCOTT:** Her *INIM* themes and understated humour mark out a name to watch. Beethoven Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham (0703 255158). Tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50 concs).

**JONES LYNN FICTION FESTIVAL:** The second, this year sponsored by Macmillan & Co., features a series of readings by writers. The "abominably funny" Tom Sharpe, together with Barry Strachan (Sat, 8pm); Malcolm Bradbury and Rose Trevelyan (Fri, 7.30pm); open discussion with all eight writers taking part, chaired by George Macbeth (Sat, 11pm); Martin Warner and Candice Millgate (Sat, 8pm); Richard Braithwaite on *Poetry of Place* (Sun, 11am); and a sort of Desert Island Post-Worlds featuring all the writers except Barry Strachan (Sun, 3pm). Free whisky Friday and Saturday nights. Theatres Company, Kings Lynn (opposite Town Hall, Sat 11am and 3pm, Sun 12pm and 3pm).

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**LENNY SASSAN:** Young Mancunian poet has a charming presence, path and grit. The Barley Arts, Newmarket Road, Cambridge (Info: 0223 358977, Helen Cook, ext 3816). Wed, 8pm, £2.00 (£1 concs).

**JOHN MORTIMER:** In conversation with Miles Kingston on landscape and its significance to his writing. Waterhead Media Centre, 1 Canons Road, Bristol (0272 278444). Wed, 7.30pm, £3 (£2 concs).

**PERFORMANCE ART**

**Ghislaine Boddington**

**FORCED ENTERTAINMENT THEATRE**

**CO-OPERATIVE: Some Conclusions in the Life of a Man.** Sheffield based co-operative theatre group. Theatres Company, Kings Lynn (opposite Town Hall, Sat 11am and 3pm, Sun 12pm and 3pm).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's selection of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country.

♦ **BLACK RAIN** (18): Michael Douglas pursuing a Japanese gangster. Flashy potboiler from director Ridley Scott. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **BLAZE** (15): Paul Newman as politician Earl Long, defiantly in love with a stripper. Colourful Americana. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **BORN ON THE FOURTH OF JULY** (18): Dynamic anti-Vietnam epic from Oliver Stone, with Tom Cruise excellent as paraplegic Ron Kovic. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **CASUALTIES OF WAR** (18): Sean Penn commits Vietnamese atrocities. Michael J. Fox broods. Comparatively thoughtful war film from Brian De Palma. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **DANCING THRU THE DARK** (15): Willy Russell's thin but bawdier comedy-musical set in a Liverpool dance hall. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **DO THE RIGHT THING** (18): Racial tension in Brooklyn; bracing militant entertainment from Spike Lee. Empire (01-497 8999).

♦ **DRIVING MISS DAISY** (U): Jessica Tandy as the lonely Southern lady with a black chauffeur (Morgan Freeman). Accomplished, endearing. Warner West End (01-439 0791).

♦ **A DRY WHITE SEASON** (15): Donald Sutherland wakes up to apartheid's horrors. Powerful writer from Andre Brink's novel. Curzon West End (01-439 4805).

♦ **FAMILY BUSINESS** (15): Carlin's ego comedy-drama about a family of crooks (Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman, Matthew Broderick). Odéon Kensington (01-602 6644).

♦ **NOTHING BUT LOVE** (15): Nothing but love. Odéon Kensington (01-602 6644).

♦ **FELLOW TRAVELLER** (15): Ron Silver as a tortured socialist victim in 1950s England. Stylized. Metro (01-457 0757).

♦ **GLORY** (15): Edward Zwick's impassioned salute to the black Americans who fought in the Civil War. Powerful performances. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **HAMLET GOES BUSINESS** (15): Carlin's updated Shakespeare filmed in B-movie style by Finnish jester Ali Kattunen. Everyman (01-439 1525).

♦ **HENRY V** (PG): War-is-hell version from Kenneth Branagh; cinematically drab, variably acted. Curzon Phoenix (01-240 9661).

♦ **HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS** (U): Miraculous children battle through their garden to safety. Singing special effects romp. Odéon Kensington (01-602 6644).

♦ **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDO ALBA** (15): Lores's play about a widow

and her six daughters, film made, but tedious cinema. Premiere (01-439 4470).

♦ **LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN** (18): Raw, brutal version of Hubert Selby Jr's tale of Brooklyn's loveless. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **LIFE AND NOTHING BUT** (PG): The emotional aftermath of World War One sensitively explored by director Bertrand Tavernier. Premiere (01-439 4470).

♦ **LOCK UP** (18): Factory-bait prison drama, with Sylvester Stallone facing the wrath of warden Donald Sutherland. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **MONKEY BUSINESS** (18): Party nonsense about a quack and a human-eating monkey. Prince Charles (01-437 8181).

♦ **OLIVER AND COMPANY** (U): Oliver Twist remade and animated. A warm blend of old Disney values, modern energy. Warner West End (01-439 0791).

♦ **PARENTHOOD** (15): Ron Howard's episodic heart-warmer about family life. Steve Martin needs a starring cast. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **ROSALENE GOES SHOPPING** (18): Broad satire from director Perry Anderson and the ample Marianne Sägebarth. Midge (01-235 4225).

♦ **SEA OF LOVE** (18): Coc (Al Pacino) and murder suspect (Ellen Barkin) fall in love. Atmospheric, runchy thriller. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **SHIRLEY VALENTINE** (15): Shirley Valentine as the Liverpool housewife rediscovering romance. Warm-hearted film. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **STEEL MAGNOLIAS** (PG): Female gossip and tears Down South. Overly sentimental, though some performers please (Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis). Odéon Kensington (01-602 6644).

♦ **TROPIC OF CANCER** (18): Graham Greene's tale of his wife and mistress. Skilful satire on marital mores from Bertrand Tavernier. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **WHEN HARRY MET SALLY** (18): Romantic comedy with a brittle touch. Meg Ryan, Billy Crystal. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **WINTER PEOPLE** (15): Rusty backwoods saga of a fading family and secret loves, with Kurt Russell and Kelly Kline. Cannon Fulham Road (01-370 2635) Plaza (01-200 0200).

♦ **IN REPERTORY**

♦ **EVERYMAN** (01-439 1525): Jim Jarmusch's debut feature. Strangely then Paradise - sad, funny, quietly dazzling.

♦ **NATIONAL FILM THEATRE** (01-523 3535): The original *Back to the Future*. Jack Rossini's TV comedy about the travels of learner taxi drivers. The Knowledge.

♦ **PHOENIX** (01-833 2233): Michael Lammert's sharp, sad teen movie. *Heathers*; John Waters's nutty salute to the early 60s. *Hairspray*.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2121

ACROSS

- Wide-eyed trousers (7)
- Swift (6)
- Elton town boy (7)
- Mountain's (8)
- Hide (4)
- Carnival (13)
- Exceptional (13)
- Debauched (8)
- Heroic (4)
- Whitbread cult (5)
- Chorus de la tribine (7)
- Devious (6)
- Barrier (6)

DOWN

- FT 100 index (7)
- Assign (7)
- Whitpool (4)
- Pop-power (8)
- Flow measure (5)
- Stressed (5)
- Not called for (11)
- Ant bear (8)
- Administered (7)
- C American peninsula (7)
- S England chalk hills (5)
- Phase (5)
- Thousand prefix (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 2120

ACROSS: 1 Mode 3 Speke 8 Anglice 10 Inane 11 Norm 12 Liar 13 Lot 20 Crack 26 Sunk

DOWN: 1 Maghreb 2 Dole 4 Priority 5 Kral 6 Kettle 9 Chain gang 14 Monsoon 15 Trance 16 Opening 18 Sever 21 Rags 22 Plan

## ENTERTAINMENTS

**OPERA & BALLET**

**BLOOD BROTHERS**

**THE CHERRY ORCHARD**

**ME AND MY GIRL**

**THE LAMBERTS**

**LOOK LOOK**

## WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 24

**JUPITER'S BEARD**

(a) A succulent, Semiparvian tectonism, of the stonecrop family.

**VENUS' PENCIL**

(a) Rock crystal with inclusions of rutile, a form of Titanium Dioxide which in this form looks like fine filaments of hair.

**EARTH-STAR**

(c) A fungus with an outer skin that peels back segmentally when the spores are ripe, leaving the fungus looking like a fully opened flower flat on the soil.

**WINNING MOVE**

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Schneider (White) - Federer (Black), Berlin 1979. How can Black win immediately? Solution in tomorrow's Times.

Solution to yesterday's position: 1 Qc8+ Kh7 2 Qxh6 fxe6 3 f7.

**THEATRES**

**THEATRES**

## THEATRES

**JACKIE MASON**

**THE WOMAN IN BLACK**

**BENT**

**MAN OF THE MOMENT**

**PAUL EDDINGTON**

**ANGELA THORNE**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

**MISS SAIGON**

**THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**

**SHIRLEY VALENTINE**

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

**THEATRES**

## THEATRES

**LES MISÉRABLES**

**NEVER THE SINNER**

**ANYTHING GOES**

**ASPECTS OF LOVE**

**THE LIAR**

**THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**

**MISS SAIGON**

**THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**

**SHIRLEY VALENTINE**

**THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE**

**THEATRES**

**THEAT**



## TELEVISION &amp; RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear  
and Gillian MaxeyOn the  
pollution  
trail

Peter Waymark

It follows the classic sequence, familiar from a score of films and television police series, of a tip-off from an informant, undercover surveillance and the getting up of a "sting" to catch the villains. We could be talking about a bank raid or an attack on a security van. In fact this elaborate operation concerns the dumping of sewage, but it is none the less exciting for that. In an initiative rapidly being followed in other parts of



At work: New Jersey environmental task force investigators (BBC2, 9.30pm)

the United States, but with no remote parallel in Britain, the state of New Jersey has set up a task force of police officers, scientists and lawyers to fight environmental pollution. Green Police (BBC2, 9.30pm), John Edington's film for 40 Minutes, follows these crime busters over a fortnight of activities in which the great sewage bust takes its place among action against river pollution and those engaged in the illegal disposal of asbestos and chemical waste. With admirable lack of discrimination, the accused range from a run on a street corner to a multinational company whose directors could face jail sentences. Compared with the pretty fines meted out in Britain for environmental offences, New Jersey last year imposed fines totalling £1.17 million and sent nine people to prison. Coincidentally, one of the items in the new series of Nature (BBC2, 8.30pm) also concerns pollution in the United States. A group of children is threatening to boycott McDonald's fast food restaurants in an attempt to persuade the company to replace their plastic packaging with more easily disposable paper.

Taking as its subject George Eastman's snapshot camera, Small Objects of Desire (BBC2, 10.10pm) looks at the family photograph and how it has constructed a carefree world in which smiles are permanent and the sun always shines. Not for nothing are five times as many photographs taken in July as in January. Further, it is a world of leisure and pleasure, free of work, disease and problems of any sort. People may hate each other but animosity is suspended for that fleeting moment in front of the lens. As Chris Farrow's script shrewdly puts it, we are sending a postcard from ourselves to the future saying we are having a wonderful time. The film demonstrates how the myth has been fostered by advertising with its perpetual injunction to keep your sunny side up.

- 6.00** **Ceebees**  
6.30 **BBC Breakfast News** with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Meyer. Includes regular news headlines, business reports, sports bulletins, regional news, travel and weather information. Paul Cullen reviews the morning newspapers. 8.58 Regional news and weather.
- 8.00** **News and weather** followed by **Open Air**. Viewers comment on yesterday's television. To contribute ring Eamonn Holmes on 051 814 0424.
- 9.30** **Money**. Robert Kilroy-Glik chairs a studio discussion between those for and against the poll tax. Newton.
- 10.00** **News and weather** followed by **Going for Gold** (r).
- 10.25** **Children's BBC**, introduced by Simon Parkin, begins with **Playdays** (r) 10.40 **Henry's Cat** (r) 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. Barrie Ingham with a reading.
- 11.00** **News and weather** followed by **Open Air**, presented by Eamonn Holmes and Jane Irvine.
- 12.00** **News and weather** followed by **Daytime Live**, includes a report from the Lord Nelson on the last leg of her voyage along the south coast of England; and a item on safe motoring. With Alan Titchmarsh, Judi Spence and Marian Foster. 12.35 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00** **Open Air** with Philip Hayton. Weather.
- 1.30** **Neighbours**. Des throws a party to celebrate the reopening of the coffee shop; Joe unwittingly becomes the owner of a precious antique; and the romance between Sharon and Nick reaches rock bottom. (Ceebees)
- 1.50** **Going for Gold**. Henry Kelly with another round of the European general knowledge quiz. Quiz.
- 2.15** **Flax**. Barbara's housewife (1940, b/w) starring Robert Montgomery and Constance Cummings. Detective Lord Peter Wimsey and crime writer Harriet Vane arrive at their honeymoon retreat to find the owner of the house has been murdered. With Leslie Banks and John Wood. Directed by Arthur R. Woods.
- 3.00** **Charlie Chalk** (r) 4.05 **Benetton** (r) 4.10 **Jackpot**. Cornie Booth with part four of B. White's *Cherida's Web* 4.35 **New York Star Show** 4.50 **Starline**. Comedy series starring Alan Heip and Mick Wall as managers of a seaside boarding house.
- 4.55** **News and weather** followed by **Yvette Fielding**, John Leslie and Diane Louise Jordan launch the British Young Animator of the Year competition. (Ceebees)
- 5.30** **News and weather** followed by **Six O'Clock News** with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
- 6.30** **Regional News Magazine**.
- 7.00** **Top of the Pops** presented by Bruno Brookes back in his famous broadcast with Radio 1.
- 7.30** **EastEnders**. Kathy arranges to see Laurie. Julie finds there is more than business to talk about with newspaper Grant Mitchell; and Frank thinks of a way of getting Vince to pay his debts back in kind. (Ceebees)
- 8.00** **Tea and a Story**. Judith Hann reports on archaeologists in New York who are using radar to trace valuable items lying deep beneath the surface of a building site, plus a story on heart surgery which could become as simple as visiting the dentist. With Kate Bellingham, Howard Stablesford and Peter Macann. (Ceebees)
- 8.30** **Brush Strokes**. Handymen Jackie finds that his friend Elmo has opened a wine bar. Starring Karl Howman and Elizabeth Counsel. (Ceebees)
- 9.00** **Mine O'Clock News** with Martin Lewis. Regional news and weather.
- 9.30** **News and weather** followed by **Another 50 minutes** in the company of the best-selling comic.
- 10.00** **Question Time**. Peter Sissons is joined by Jane Grant, director of the National Alliance of Women's Organisations; the Secretary of State for Employment, Michael Howard; Mary Kenny, writer and journalist; and Joan Ruddock, Labour MP for Lewisham Deptford.
- 11.00** **More Over Dating**. Room at the Top. In this fourth programme of the series, Colin and Rosemary, International Women's Day. Pamela Stephenson looks at how women can climb the career ladder to the top.
- 11.30** **World Figure Skating Championships**. Highlights of the pairs free programme from Halifax, Nova Scotia, presented by Barry Davies.
- 12.00am** **Weather**.

- 6.00** **Open University: Questioning Assumptions**. Ends at 7.10.
- 6.15** **News**. 6.15 **Weather**.
- 6.30** **Ceebees**.
- 6.45** **Open University: Questioning Assumptions**. Ends at 7.10.
- 6.55** **News**. 6.55 **Weather**.
- 7.00** **Ceebees**.
- 7.15** **Open University: Questioning Assumptions**. Ends at 7.40.
- 7.25** **Open University: Questioning Assumptions**. Ends at 7.40.
- 7.35** **Open University: Questioning Assumptions**. Ends at 7.40.
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## Fairey Group jumps by 43% to £12.5m

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

**Local currency:** Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

# SKF

**TANDY**  
**COMPUTERS**



# Polygram makes record profit as CD sales climb

By Martin Waller

There is no chance of a fall in the price of compact discs, which is likely to continue to increase in line with inflation, according to the president of Polygram, the third largest record company in the world and the largest outside the US.

Mr David Fine was announcing record 1989 figures from Polygram, which made its debut in December on the New York and Amsterdam markets, raising \$560 million. About 80 per cent of the company is still held by Philips, the Dutch electronics group.

Pre-tax profits rose to \$15 million guineas (£163 million) from \$13.5 million in the year to end-December, on sales up from \$1,342 million to \$1,410 million. There is no dividend - a \$100 million payment was made to Philips before the float.

The majority of sales, about 68 per cent, were from pop music, with the two best-selling albums last year coming from Fine Young Cannibals, with sales of 5 million, and Tears for Fears.

Mr Fine saw little prospect of a London listing for Polygram, as this would involve the release of more shares by its Dutch parent. The extent of the company in US hands has slipped since the float from 3.2 per cent to 4.2 per cent, with Japanese in-

stitutions showing strong interest in owning the shares.

The proportion of sales accounted for by compact discs rose from 29 per cent in 1988 to 37 per cent last year, against just 20 per cent for the traditional LP.

Mr Fine attacked "irresponsible" criticism of record companies inflating the price of their CDs, claiming that CD margins were no higher than on other products, and that without its profits from CDs effectively cross-subsidizing other formats Polygram could not afford to record on cassette and LP.

By 1992 CD sales worldwide were likely to go through

the 1 billion level, overtaking other formats, he added.

"There's no evidence whatsoever that the public isn't buying CDs. I don't think the price of full-price CDs will go down."

Polygram spent about \$250 million last year on its artists and is set to repeat this investment this year. Last year it acquired Island Records for \$272 million, and during the six months it was under Polygram's ownership it made a negative impact after financing costs to the figures.

At the end of the year Polygram acquired A&M for \$460 million in a much-needed expansion in the US.

# Gent and Lego build up outlets

By Gillian Bowditch

SR Gent, the Marks and Spencer clothing supplier, has signed a deal with Lego to make a range of Lego brand children's wear for the American market.

Gent already makes the Lego clothes for Marks and Spencer and has recently introduced the range in Germany. The US Lego clothes will be designed in London, made in North Carolina and go on sale nationwide. Mr Peter Wolff, chairman and joint chief executive, says that, when established, the business should add more than \$10 million to turnover.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to December 1989 rose 33.1 per cent to £1.36 million on turnover up 12.6 per cent to £58.9 million. Earnings per share rose 21 per cent to 2.3p and the interim is up 25 per cent at 1.25p.



Seeking monster turnover: Peter Wolff at the Science Museum Lego exhibition in London

## Cowie dips to £16m

The heavy cost of financing its \$2,000-car contract hire fleet and losses in its commercial vehicle rental operations caused profits at T. Cowie, the motor dealer, to fall £9 million in the second half, leaving the pre-tax total 36 per cent lower at £16.1 million in the year to December. Fully-diluted earnings per share fell by a third to 10.9p and the final dividend drops from 4p to 3p.

Mr Tom Cowie, the founder and chairman, denied the dividend cut was because the company is having problems servicing its £320 million of borrowings. He said the total dividend of 4.2p gave a yield of more than 10 per cent with the shares at 52p.

Cowie's interest charge rose £16 million to £38 million.

## OFT studies debit card complaints

By Neil Bennett

The Office of Fair Trading is to look into Switch, the electronic debit card, after complaints from Barclays and Lloyds banks that it is anti-competitive.

Mr Seymour Fortescue, Barclays' director of personal banking, has written to Sir Gordon Borrie, chairman of the OFT, saying Switch "restricts the bank's ability to compete." This follows the rejection of Barclays' application to join Switch.

Switch is owned jointly by Midland, National West-

## Ricardo rejects 180p offer

By Our City Staff

Ricardo Group, the Sussex-based engine designer, has rejected a 180p all-paper approach from its 15 per cent shareholder, First Technology, the security and safety systems group.

First Technology, which lost a 170p bid for Ricardo a year ago, said a new bid would not be made unless it was recommended. It is unhappy about Ricardo's agreed merger with SAC International which, it says, values Ricardo at 135p and which would dilute its stake to about 6 per cent.

Ricardo's shares rose 18p to 155p yesterday. First Technology intends to vote against the merger with SAC International at an extraordinary meeting on Monday. It will tell other Ricardo shareholders that if the merger is not voted through it will renew its approach.

Dr Doug Taylor, chairman of Ricardo, said the offer of 180p a share fell far short of the premium necessary to acquire control of the business.

The merger with SAC International was consistent with Ricardo's long-term strategy and was in the best interests of Ricardo's shareholders.

## Writs against former Eagle Trust directors

By Jeremy Andrews

On the eve of the publication of its long-delayed 1988 accounts, Eagle Trust, the engineering and film camera group, is taking action against seven former directors.

It arises out of the company's involvement in a failed parcels carrier and a luxury vehicle builder in America which led to £53 million losses.

The writs are against Mr Leslie Thomas, Mr Richard

Smith, Mr Robert Black, Mr Martin Baker, Dr Donald Hardwick, Mr Hamish Janson and Mr Clive Whitley alleging a breach of fiduciary duty and duty of skill and care as directors. In the case of Mr Richard Smith, the writ also alleges fraud.

The accounts are likely to be heavily qualified by Eagle's auditors, Peat Marwick McLintock, when they are published this morning.

## Scott does the decent thing

Charles Scott, a corporate financier at BZW and one of the three sons of Sir James Scott, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, was the hero of the Unlisted Securities Market dinner - for 1,200 people - at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Tuesday. Having paid £100 for just one ticket in an up-market raffle to win a £13,500 Scimitar sports car - the latest model, donated by its USM-quoted manufacturer, Reliant - Scott, aged 35, won the prize. It was especially coveted by the assembled diners since it bore the registration plate "USM 1" - donated by another USM company, Alan Paul, the Liverpool hairdressing group - which boosted the total value by another £25,000 or so. But Scott, who normally drives around in a somewhat more modest Volvo, admitted that the winning ticket had been bought "with corporate money" and gallantly handed the prize back to be auctioned by guest speaker Jeffrey Archer in aid of the chosen charity of the evening, the NSPCC. In the event it fetched £77,000 with USM-quoted Xtra-vision - an Irish-based chain of video rental shops - bidding against Blenheim Exhibitions. The eventual buyer was Richard Murphy, 29-year-old chairman of Xtra-vision, whose net worth is already estimated to be in the region of £10 million. With a total of £125,000 thus raised for charity, Scott, whose brother Alex trains race horses, and whose Victorian

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Dewe wins a 'T Yes B'

One man's loss is another man's gain - as WPP subsidiary JW Thompson discovered yesterday. For despite fielding Chris Jones, chief executive of JWT, in its team to pitch for the business, it lost its £15 million TSB account after more than 10 years. The victor in the pitching battle was Dewe Rogerson, better known as a financial PR agency. "People always think of us as a PR agency, but in fact, for

family pile, Rotherfield Park, encompasses a large number of Hampshire acres, tells me: "There is more glory in doing that than riding around in a little red sports car."



"Come down to Harrods, and I'll show you what happens to kids who tell lies"

the past eight years, the single biggest source of income for the group has been advertising," he says. Anthony Carls, chief executive of Dewe Rogerson and an "ad" man himself, Dewe Rogerson has already done some work for TSB Group, but never for the high-spending TSB Bank before. "We handled its share offer campaign, the one with bowler hats, and the T Yes B campaign last year," he said.

### Not grousing

It might be a little unfair to the creatures - and animal rights activists continue to complain - but shooting and stalking in Scotland generates about £78 million a year and creates the equivalent of 7,212 full-time jobs, according to a new report. The survey, by the Fraser of Allander Institute at Strathclyde University, was commissioned by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation - who else? - and the Scottish Development Agency. And it also concludes that foreigners - and City gents - who visit Scotland for the shooting tend to spend more than ordinary tourists. By a not inconsiderable amount. Apparently they will happily fork out up to £10,000 per person per week on top-quality grouse shooting and deer stalking.

## Toast of the Savoy

As a reunion lunch for past and present employees of the press office of the Savoy Hotel, hosted by MD Giles Shepard, it was revealed that it was that office which formed the basis of the British Tourist Authority. After the First World War, it campaigned for a "Brighter London," which developed into the "Come to Britain" movement and finally the BTA. Adding to the historical intrigue, both melba toast and peche melba were on the menu - recalling days when Australian diva Dame Nellie Melba regularly took a suite there. She apparently had erratic eating habits, feasting and starving on alternate days. To accommodate this, then Savoy head chef Auguste Escoffier invented melba toast for her "thin days." My source also let slip that the man who could perhaps be described as Dame Nellie's contemporary counterpart, Luciano Pavarotti, is staying at the hotel - his favourite - this week.

Lord King's son-in-law, Melvyn Markas, better known as the City editor of The Observer, breathed a sigh of relief when the DTI report on the Fayed takeover of Harrods was finally published. Five years ago, before the responsibilities of marriage, he pledged, in an open letter that he would resign "should it eventually be proven" that the Fayed had used their own money to buy House of Fraser. "I'm very relieved," he admits.

Carol Leonard

## Banks fail to halt dollar advance

By Colin Narborough

Economics Correspondent

A renewed assault on the dollar by the central banks failed to force the US currency down more than temporarily against the sagging yen and the shaky West German mark.

Though yesterday's intervention by 13 central banks, spearheaded by the Bundesbank, brought the dollar down during the European day, it finished 0.80 of a pence higher at DM1.7080 and 0.75 of a yen firmer at ¥151.20.

Sidelined by the action, the pound slipped 0.2 of a point on its trade-weighted index to end at \$7.8, off the day's low. It was nearly a cent lower at \$1.64 and more than half a pence down at DM2.7995.

The anti-dollar campaign comes as foreign exchange markets await an early rise in Japanese interest rates, probably to be followed by a similar move in West Germany. The central banks, including the Bank of England, sold dollars for yen and marks, underlining a fresh commitment by the Group of Seven leading economies to prevent excessive decline of the yen and mark.

Meeting at Nagoya, Japan, senior officials reaffirmed G7's commitment to combating depreciation of the two currencies, fearful that further decline would make it more difficult for Japan and West Germany to achieve a desired adjustment in trade flows.

Meanwhile, figures out yesterday showed sharp rises in West Germany's trade surplus and output in January.

In contrast to other recent surveys, the Institute of Directors' bi-monthly survey reports a "marked upturn" in business confidence and signs of a surge in investment in the next six months.

## CRH jumps to pre-tax £76m

Pre-tax profits at CRH, the Irish building materials group, rose by 27 per cent to £76.6 million (£76.7 million) in 1989. CRH spent £70.4 million on acquisitions and investments and in January it paid £148 million to Anglo United for Coalite Building Supplies. Last month it paid £12.3 million for three building product companies in the United States.

CRH is to launch two convertible capital bonds, raising £75 million and \$72 million. Shareholders are offered £1 nominal of the Irish issue for every 3,809 ordinary.

A second interim of 3.5p makes 5.25p against 4.5p.

## COMMENT

# No more slips for Gas in Canadian market

Robert Evans who succeeded the combative Sir Denis Rooke as British Gas chairman last year, has more than a little to prove with the planned purchase of Toronto-based Consumers Gas. After the fiasco with Bow Valley, the Canadian exploration and production company, plus another aborted bid in New Zealand, Mr Evans can hardly afford a slip if he is to retain credibility with his City fan club.

Unlike the Bow Valley foray, the latest attempt to buy into Canada has not been unduly rushed under pressure of the need to be seen doing something post-privatization. The interested parties have been talking since November. The target company has the added attraction, unlike Bow Valley, of being a gas transmission company, the core business of British Gas, where the bulk of its experience and expertise lies.

With 82 per cent of the common stock pledged from a single holder, British Gas has little but regulatory hurdles to fear though, of course, anything could happen in the obligatory tender offer period. Mr Evans appears to have selected a favourable regulatory regime which allows profits made within an agreed price structure and capital return targets to be retained. Consumers Gas seems to be well run for it has managed to beat the return on capital targets regularly in recent years.

There will be negligible dilution in year one and a reasonable contribution thereafter. The price, five times cash flow and 11 times historic earnings per share, is also a sensible one which will win plaudits from Gas shareholders. The group's progress may have looked pedestrian in recent years. But, in these dull days for British industry, the 15 per cent earnings growth expected for Gas this year and next become relatively much more attractive. Add in the 1991 prospective yield of about 7.6 per cent and the shares look well worth holding.

## Pulling the RUG

The non-executive directors of Really Useful Group have accepted the inevitable and are recommending the offer from Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, the composer, to take the company private again at 233p a share. As has been pointed out before, with Mr Lloyd Webber sitting on a controlling 52.5 per cent, they had little choice.

Investors can have few quibbles with the shares' performance, having bought in at the equivalent of 110p in 1986, but they might not wish to be bundled towards the exit at a prospective earnings multiple of just 13 times, on RUG's own profits forecast.

Interim results to end-December show pre-tax profits of £4.66 million against £2.79 million and a forecast of at least £9.5 million for the current year. There is no interim dividend.

There is also the small matter of the asset valuation. Wertheim Schroder, on behalf of the non-executives and minority shareholders and in its exercise of the notoriously-difficult science of valuation of intellectual property, came up with a figure of £50 million to £60 million for the Lloyd Webber copyrights under the company's control.

RUG has about £10 million cash in the bank and its Palace Theatre is valued at £7 million. Liabilities are "negligible," we are told, but are sufficient to put Mr Lloyd Webber's £77 million offer at a slight premium to net assets.

It seems a pity that Schroders did not go the whole hog and produce a net asset value for the world to see in all its naked glory. The independent directors admit that the offer does not include the kind of premium which might have been the shareholders' right if Mr Lloyd Webber did not have control.

Investors might do well to remember the whole sorry affair the next time a hyped-up media group controlled by a show business household name starts eyeing their money.

## Hitch for Indosuez

The City held its breath for Banque Indosuez to fanfare its heavily-leaked acquisition of Gartmore, the fund manager, yesterday, but it was greeted with silence. The £130 million deal has hit a classic last-minute hitch. The problem is a group of 60 from Gartmore's senior management who represent the core of the company's marketing skill. If they leave, Indosuez would not be left with much for its money.

So the French bank is negotiating new contracts with them, presumably offering packages generous enough to convince them that their new parent is a good thing. At the same time, Indosuez's negotiators are soothing any nerves that the new set-up will rob Gartmore of its dealing independence and push it closer to W1 Carr. Indosuez's London broker, Talks, are behind schedule and Indosuez has cancelled its London roadshow but the deal should be completed this afternoon or Friday at the latest.

Unfortunately, M Antoine Jeancourt-Galignani, Indosuez's chairman, will not be in London to celebrate his latest acquisition: he has a pressing engagement in Istanbul. There, he and M Etienne Davignon, head of Belgium's Générale de Banque, are opening Euroturk, their joint-venture bank in the country. The day will be filled with meetings with the governor of the bank of Turkey and even a short chat with Mr Turgut Ozal, the country's president. Turkey's expanding economy is a promising market for Indosuez, and M Jeancourt-Galignani has been forced to reveal his priorities.

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# How the Fayeds 'repeatedly lied' in the

## HOUSE OF FRASER REPORT

The Government appointed inspectors to investigate the takeover of House of Fraser by the Egyptian Fayeds brothers after the Fayeds' claim that the £615 million bid could be met from their own resources was questioned. The following gives the full conclusions of the inspectors' findings

The Fayeds dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources to the Secretary of State, the OFT, the Press, the HOF Board and HOF shareholders, and their own advisers.

During the course of our investigations we received evidence from the Fayeds, under solemn affirmation and in written memoranda, which was false and which the Fayeds knew to be false. In addition, the Fayeds produced a set of documents they knew to be false. This false evidence related mainly, but not exclusively, to their background, their past business activities and the way in which they came to be in control of enormous funds in the autumn of 1984 and the spring of 1985.

The Fayeds had at their disposal on 31 October 1984 deposits of £50.5 million and £330 million at Royal Bank of Scotland ("RBS") in London and £225 million in cash and securities at a Swiss bank. We have seen no credible evidence to explain how the Fayeds came to control such sums. We are of the view that these sums, or at any rate a large part of them, were not beneficially owned by the Fayeds and had come under their control not long before October 1984.

Because of those limits on our powers we have been unable to discover conclusive evidence to prove the source of the funds which were used in the acquisition. We do not consider that there is any reasonable chance that we would uncover such evidence if we continued our investigations any longer. The evidence before us, however, indicates that it is likely that the Fayeds used their association with the Sultan of Brunei and the opportunities afforded to them by the possession of wide powers of attorney from the Sultan of Brunei to enable them to acquire those funds.

The lies which the Fayeds were telling about themselves and their resources were given a credibility which they would not have otherwise attained when they were repeated by their very reputable advisers.

The Fayeds were allowed to proceed with the acquisition of HOF by AIT without reference to the MMC for further inquiry (or other Government hindrance) because:

It has been Government policy, following a statement in July 1984, that references to the MMC should be made primarily on competition grounds. Ministers were readily satisfied that no such grounds existed in this case. The practical effect of this policy was that references to the MMC on other grounds involving the public interest were only made in really exceptional cases. An example of such a case would be one in which

vital strategic interests are at stake. HOF was not regarded as one of these.

The Secretary of State saw no practical alternative but to accept the representations and assurances which were made to him, and in particular those which he and his officials saw as having been made by the Fayeds, Kleinworts and Herbert Smith, coupled with the comfort he derived from the recommendation of the Fayeds' bid by the HOF Board and Warburgs.

### BUSINESS INTERESTS & INCOME GENERATION

The OFT, and subsequently the DTI, were left with a seriously misleading impression of the Fayeds' business interests and wealth after an oral session at the OFT on 11 March 1985 attended by the Fayeds, Kleinworts and Herbert Smith which was followed by a factually wrong written submission accompanied by qualified letters of support from Kleinworts and Herbert Smith.

We consider that two press releases which stated that the Fayeds family "has widespread international interests including, in particular, ship-owning, luxury hotels, construction, oil, oil services, banking and property", conveyed an entirely wrong impression and were likely to mislead.

(i) Shipowning - The Fayeds only owned two 1,600 ton roll-on roll-off Mediterranean cargo ferries and 14 vessels which they had recently bought as part of a small enterprise in Dubai which provided services to the local offshore oil industry.

(ii) Luxury Hotels - The Fayeds owned only one luxury hotel, the Ritz Hotel in Paris.

(iii) Construction - The Fayeds' involvement as middlemen in connection with construction projects in Dubai and other countries in the United Arab Emirates had ended for all practical purposes at the end of the 1970s, and in 1984-85 they had no current involvement at all.

(iv) Oil - The Fayeds had small (6 per cent and 16 per cent) minority interests in two oil concessions in Abu Dhabi. These had been granted in 1980 and 1981 and their exploitation since that time had not yielded commercial quantities of oil. In 1984-85 the concessions were of no value.

(v) Oil services - The Fayeds owned one very small British company which yielded a profit for the first time (£8,000) in 1985 and the small company in Dubai which is mentioned under (i) above which had been loss-making prior to 1984.

(vi) Banking - The Fayeds owned a 4.9 per cent stake in a Texas bank with a value of \$8.7 million in March 1985.

(vii) Property - The Fayeds owned quite valuable interests in property, particularly in Great Britain, USA and France. The underlying capital value of their interests in some of these prop-



erties had appreciated since they were acquired, but none of them were wealth-producing and the Fayeds did not suggest that they were.

The Fayeds represented in March 1985 that they were international businessmen who, from the profits of their businesses, had accumulated in their central bank accounts at Compagnie de Fieston et de Banque Gonet SA ("Banque Gonet") in Switzerland sufficient funds to acquire HOF without having to borrow any money at all. We are of the very clear opinion that none of the activities of the Fayeds of which we have been told generated sufficient cash for the Fayeds to have been in a position to acquire HOF, or any substantial part of it, with their own funds.

(i) We received no worthwhile evidence to support their claim that by the time they left Egypt in 1962 they had accumulated £20 million, mostly inherited wealth, and we reject that claim;

(ii) Shipowning and shipping - (a) The profits which the Fayeds companies made on the two cargo ferries were extinguished by the interest payments on the loans they incurred;

(b) The profits of their Gilnavi and Genavco groups of companies were negligible in the context of the sums required to buy HOF;

(c) In 1984 their Dubai company, International Marine Services (IMS), made a profit of £1.1 million which was negligible in that context.

(iii) Luxury hotels - The Ritz Hotel, Paris made a loss on ordinary activities in the years 1983-85 and the Fayeds never suggested that it was the source of the funds they used to acquire HOF.

(iv) Construction - We are satisfied that Mohamed did not retain commissions in excess of £50 million net, spread over 15 years, in connection with construction contracts in Dubai and other Emirate States. Even on his

own story the funds from this source did not exceed about £85 million.

(v) Oil - The oil concessions generated no income at all and were not likely to. £8.4 million had been realized on the sale of half of the Fayeds interests in one of the concessions in the early 1980s.

(vi) Oil services - See (ii)(c) above for IMS: their British company made a profit of £8,000 in 1985.

(vii) Banking - The dividends from their National Bankshares Corporation shares were negligible in the context of the sums required to buy HOF.

## ● The lies which the Fayeds were telling about themselves and their resources were given a credibility they would not have otherwise attained when they were repeated by their very reputable advisers. ●

(viii) Property - The Fayeds told us that their property was not purchased for its income-generating ability but for capital appreciation. The income from their business interests in property was negligible in the context of the sums required to buy HOF.

(ix) Other - Other business interests which yielded income were a right to receive commission on sales of Gulfstream aircraft in 1981-84 (\$8 million), profits from the film *Chariots of Fire* (\$20 million up to 1985), and fees from the management of the Dubai Trade Centre (in excess of \$1 million a year). These were negligible in the context of the sums required to buy HOF.

At a late stage of our investigations we were told by the Fayeds that the monies deposited in RBS were their share from the dissolution of a secret oil trading syndicate. We have examined this

possibility very carefully. We have no hesitation in concluding that this story is untrue.

### ASSETS

The Fayeds' assets were worth a fraction of what they portrayed to the public. They were certainly not worth "several billion dollars", as a director of Kleinworts said on television on 10 March 1985. Although the Fayeds were rich by the standards of the average man, they had assets of only modest value in the context of a £600 million cash acquisition. The largest values which they attributed to their assets in 1985, and

by a visit by a member of our staff to Egypt we conclude that they came from respectable but humble origins and are the sons of a teacher.

The Fayeds had not, as they had claimed to us, accumulated £20 million outside Egypt by the time of nationalization in 1962 from their inherited wealth and business interests.

The Fayeds produced to us birth certificates which were false and which they knew to be false. They repeatedly lied to us about their family background, their early business life and their wealth.

Furthermore, in the course of giving their own English solicitor a tour of properties and people during a visit to Egypt in September 1987, the Fayeds either caused him to obtain an incorrect impression of their past or allowed him to develop that impression unchecked. He returned to England and gave his account of what he had seen and heard to us in good faith. Very little of it stood up to independent inquiry.

### THE PRESS

The true facts about the provenance of the Fayeds' funds, or any evidence which came close to the true facts, were strenuously denied by the Fayeds, and attempts to investigate their finances by the Press were frustrated or impeded by threats of legal action. Much of this activity took place after April 1985, but the steps which they took from November 1984 onwards (which included vigorous action by their lawyers and emphatic public statements which were quite untrue) to deny the evidence which was beginning to emerge, led to a public acceptance of the picture painted by the Fayeds and their advisers.

During the course of our investigations the Fayeds made serious accusations of lack of professional integrity against a freelance journalist who had discovered the true story of their Egyptian past. We in-

quired into these allegations at great length and we reject them. Certain aspects of press coverage in this case concern us deeply, because the overall impression created by the Press in a matter of this complexity is widely accepted.

### MANAGEMENT OF HOF

We are of the view that the representations made by the Fayeds to the Secretary of State and others about the future management of HOF were sincerely meant at the time. Furthermore, we consider that Mohamed and Ali Fayeds have taken a close and personal interest in the HOF group.

We doubt, however, if the Fayeds have allowed the management of HOF the extensive autonomy which they said they intended to give it. Mohamed Fayeds has been concerned primarily with Harrods where his leadership has been, to say the least, mercurial. Ali Fayeds as Chairman of House of Fraser (Stores) Limited ("HOF (Stores)"), is more inclined to let his managers manage without interference. The Fayeds are more deeply involved in the management of HOF than they originally said they would be. No undertakings were, however, required of them when they were permitted to acquire HOF without an MMC reference.

There has been a large turnover of senior executives in the group. This has been due partly to the need to inject "new blood" into the group after a year of attrition with Lornho. A partial cause, however, has been the inability of Mohamed Fayeds to delegate or to leave senior directors of companies within the group with the authority they expect.

### KLEINWORT BENSON

The representatives of Kleinworts accepted the image and the claimed wealth of the Fayeds. To some extent they added to that image when they adopted earlier

## Tiny's unstoppable war machine

When Lornho was first barred from bidding for House of Fraser, and hence his Harrods, in December 1981, Mr Tiny Rowland, chief executive, said that he had lost a battle but not the war. He was true to his word, making nonsense of the Monopolies Commission's conclusion that "We do not think any continuing uncertainty would be serious enough to damage House of Fraser."

After the £615 million cash bid by AlFayed Investment Trust, vehicle of Mr Mohamed Fayeds and his brothers, won control of the majority of Fraser shares on March 11, 1985, the war too appeared to have been irreparably lost.

Lornho had been *hors de combat* at the time. Only three days later was it freed to bid, on the strength of a second MMC report prompted by its attempts to gain control of Harrods through the boardroom. And at the same time

the Fayeds bid was allowed through without an MMC inquiry.

Yet the campaign went on in new directions, which critics claim may have cost Lornho as much as £20 million.

Lornho repeatedly but vainly urged Mr Norman Tebbit, then Trade Secretary, to send the Fayeds bid to the MMC, which alone could order divestment of HOF. Lornho claimed that Mr Tebbit and the OFT had relied on misleading assurances by Mr Mohamed Fayeds, and his advisers, over personal wealth and ownership of funds used to make the bid.

Mr Rowland increasingly made the Prime Minister the target of letters - some subsequently published by Lornho - purporting to expose the Fayeds. *The Observer*, which is owned by Lornho and had separately started attacking the Fayeds during their bid for HOF, published an article claiming the family came from humble origins and had lied about their past.

Attempted lawsuits between



Fighting words: weapons from Lornho's arsenal of documents

Lornho, the Fayeds and their merchant bank, Kleinworts Benson, proved inconclusive though the Fayeds, in their turn, substantially failed in actions against *The Observer*.

More studiously as time went on, Mr Rowland suggested Mrs Thatcher had personally covered up the affair because of Mr Fayeds' connections in the Middle East and with the Sultan of Brunei, an ally with huge holdings of sterling. Lornho

Trade Secretaries, Mr Denis Thatcher and apologists for the Sultan such as Lord Chalfont and Mr Edward Heath.

In July 1988, the inspectors' report was sent to Lord Young, then Trade Secretary, and thence to the Serious Fraud Office.

Lornho started another campaign to have it published. It printed, and distributed round the world, thousands of copies of *A Hero from Zero*, a detailed and damning study of the rise of Mr Fayeds and the takeover.

Lord Young was harassed through the courts by Lornho suits - ultimately unsuccessful - aimed at forcing him to publish and refer the Fayeds' ownership of Harrods to the Monopolies Commission before the time limit expired.

Eventually, Lornho took matters into its own hands. In March 1989, a special mid-week edition of *The Observer*, including substantial extracts from a leaked copy of the report, was printed to coincide with Lornho's annual shareholders' meeting. *The Ob-*

server and Lornho were injured by the Government, but cleared of contempt.

Lornho's public campaign was partly diverted during 1989 by another - this time spectacularly successful - to undermine the threat that Mr Alan Bond, the Australian financier, might organize a takeover bid.

But, almost three years after the report was ordered and 20 months after it was sent to the Serious Fraud Office, Lornho's worst fears were confirmed when the SFO and Director of Public Prosecutions said they had insufficient evidence for criminal prosecution on "any matter of substance" in the report and the Government said it did not intend to take any further action.

With Harrods apparently further from their grasp than ever, Mr Rowland and Lornho still see publication of the report as the start of a new campaign in the continuing war. They have already made clear this will include suing the Fayeds.

### THE BATTLE FOR HARRODS

1975-1976: Mohamed Fayeds on Lornho board.  
March 1977-July 1979: Lornho gradually builds 29.9% stake in House of Fraser. Heavily criticizes HOF board.  
January-February 1981: Lornho makes hostile full bid for HOF, which is referred to the MMC by John Biffen.  
December 1981: MMC concludes bid against public interest. Biffen bans Lornho from adding to HOF holding.  
1982-83: Lornho harries HOF board to push Harrods merger plan and wins support of new shareholders.  
August 1983: Cecil Parkinson appoints QC to investigate possible HOF concert party; Lornho cleared a year later.  
May 1984: Lornho requisitions HOF meeting to pack board with 12 new directors; Norman Tebbit refers situation to MMC for six-month inquiry, extended in October.  
November 1984: After rejecting offer in June, Lornho agrees to sell 29.9% HOF stake to Mohamed Fayeds and brothers, then builds new 6 per cent stake.  
February 14, 1985: MMC report signed, saying new Lornho bid for HOF would not be against public interest.  
March 4, 1985: Fayeds make recommended bid for HOF.  
March 7, 1985: MMC report clearing new Lornho bid published, amid Lornho pleas for Fayeds bid to be referred.  
March 11, 1985: Fayeds raise HOF holding above 50% in market. Lornho sells stake in market.  
March 14, 1985: Tebbit spares Fayeds bid from MMC reference and lifts ban on Lornho bidding.  
1985-87: Lornho pursues campaign for Fayeds bid to be referred to MMC on grounds of misleading submissions to Office of Fair Trading and DTI.  
April 1987: Paul Channon appoints DTI inspectors to investigate Fayeds bid for HOF.  
July 1988: Inspectors' report submitted to Lord Young, who sends it to Serious Fraud Office.  
August 1988: Lornho publishes *A Hero from Zero*, including excerpts from leaked report. Lord Young wins injunction, says report shows wrongdoing.  
March 1990: Ridley rules out action against Fayeds.



# in the fight for House of Fraser

Investigations revealed that the Fayed's evidence about issues ranging from their birthdays to the family yacht did not bear scrutiny

The issue of the Fayed brothers' birth dates was in some ways the most controversial of those which we encountered in this part of our investigations, although as the full extent of the Fayed's falsehoods became apparent the significance of this individual item became less important. The Fayed maintained that their dates of birth were 27 January 1933 (Mohamed), 4 February 1939 (Salah) and 18 December 1943 (Ali). In support of this claim they produced to us what purported to be official Egyptian birth certificates, which showed these birth dates, an address at the time of birth at Hagari Street, Alexandria, and their father to be "Landed Gentry". We will call the information contained in these certificates "the Fayed's version".

We received evidence which convinced us that no reliance at all should be placed on these "birth certificates" or any other part of the Fayed's evidence on this issue. We have seen a number of birth certificates (and received evidence about their provenance from witnesses whose reliability we accept) which show that all three brothers were the sons of a primary school teacher and that they were born at 53 Shourbagy Lane on 27 January 1929, 4 February 1931 and 18 December 1933 respectively. We will call the information contained in these certificates "the alternative version".

In an affidavit made in July 1986 Mohamed asserted that the "alternative version" birth certificates were not genuine documents. He continued: "Naturally, I am deeply concerned about the continued appearance of forged documents which are used to support the Observer/Rowland campaign. I am acutely aware that if enough forgeries are produced, ultimately people will believe that there is 'no smoke without fire.' If the Director of Public Prosecutions should investigate these documents and the circumstances in which they came into existence I would be highly relieved and would be happy to give all such assistance as I am able."

We suggested that one method by which we might be able to identify documents on which we could safely rely would be if we were given written authority by the Fayed to approach the appropriate Egyptian authorities. No such authority was, however, forthcoming.

At a very late stage of our investigations we obtained three "alternative version" birth certificates ourselves from the National Archives Registry after Mr Jenkins had made a formal application during his visit to Egypt.

## THE YACHT 'DODI'

The Fayed claimed that a very expensive yacht named *Dodi* which was first registered in 1913 had been in the ownership of their family since before they were born. It was taken over by the Egyptian government and Mohamed Fayed subsequently recovered the yacht for his family who still own it. When Mr Fleck (of Herbert Smith) was at the Yacht Club, a sailor confirmed part of this story.

A search of the Lloyd's Yacht Register in the Guildhall Library, London and the Reading Room at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, revealed that this story is completely untrue. There is no mention of a Fayed among the owners of the yacht until 1969 and its home port was registered as Newport, Rhode Island, until 1921 and Southampton between 1922 and 1951.

## THE NAME 'AL FAYED'

At about the same time as the Fayed brothers were engaged in

altering their dates of birth, they were also engaged in altering their names. In this respect they have not shown the same consistency of approach.

For the most part, Mohamed Fayed has called himself "Mohamed Al Fayed" since the early 1970s and by the time he and his brother Ali joined the Board of Lorrho as alternate directors in the mid-70s they were both calling themselves Al Fayed. All three brothers assumed the name "Al Fayed" for the purposes of the acquisition of HOF, but more recently Salah and Ali have been calling themselves simply "Fayed". Our attention was drawn to some evidence on deposition in pre-trial proceedings in a US jurisdiction in 1986 in which Mohamed explained that Al means the head of the family: "Al is like a title: the head of a tribe and this is permissible under Egyptian law." He said that if his brother Ali was called "Al Fayed" this must have been as a result of a mistake made by his secretary.

A learned treatise by Professor Dr Hassanin M Rabie, an Egyptian Professor of Mediaeval History, which was submitted to us, explained that there were only four cases in which the definite article "Al" used to be added to a person's family name, none of which were relevant in the case of the Fayed, and that a person can never change his family's surname even by adding the definite article "Al" to the name. He said that in no case does the use of the definite

● About the time the Fayed's were altering their dates of birth, they were also altering their names ●

article "Al" signify that the person is the father or head of the family. This evidence has not been challenged by the Fayed.

It follows that the three brothers should properly be called by the name of Fayed, which is the name they all used in the early years of their life and for consistency we have referred to them by this name throughout our report.

One of the most difficult technical problems which we encountered during our investigations related to the evidence we received about Mohamed Fayed's activities in Haiti during the second half of 1964.

We took the view that if we concluded that HOF had deceived the regulatory authorities and others in London in 1984-85 about the wealth and about the identity and business background of its directors then we would be entitled as inspectors to include, in our report of the affairs of the company, any evidence we had received about the true characters and history of its directors which in our judgement could properly and fairly be regarded as relevant and material. If it is true, as we find to be the case, that Mohamed Fayed perpetrated a very substantial deception on the authorities in Haiti before absconding with over \$100,000 of funds belonging to the harbour authority there, then this is, in our opinion, a matter which is relevant for the Secretary of State to know when he considers what action he should take following an act of deception on the British Government by Mohamed Fayed's company on a different but an even grander scale, which involved dishonest statements about his family and business background.



statements about their clients which they had inherited, added to them their own impressions and put those statements, with the authority of the bank's name behind them, into the public sphere.

The bank put out in its own name a press release on 2 November 1984 describing the Fayed's as "members of an old established Egyptian family who for more than 100 years were shipowners, landowners and industrialists in Egypt". The bank's name was also used in a press release which was issued by the Fayed's public relations consultants on 7 March 1985 which stated that Kleinworts was satisfied that the Fayed's "have more than adequate funds of their own [our emphasis] to finance the offer".

In the offer document which was published 16 days later Kleinworts expressed themselves satisfied "that AIT has available, from the existing resources and the normal trading facilities of the Al-Fayed family, the necessary financial resources to implement the offers in full". These statements were unsubstantiated and our inquiry has shown that the bank was misled.

Kleinworts gave comfort on behalf of its clients to the Board of HOF and its advisers, to the public through the media of the Press and television, to the OFT and to the DTI and Secretary of State. Whether so much comfort should have been taken is another matter.

The regulatory authorities presumed that Kleinworts had undertaken much more original inquiry than was in fact the case. When deciding not to conduct further inquiries at the time of the bid they preferred the strength of support which was given by Kleinworts to the Fayed's to the contrary evidence which they received from Lorrho and its associates.

While not disputing that the

statements about the Fayed's were made in good faith, we do not consider that Kleinworts undertook adequate independent verification or inquiry before it allowed these statements to be made in its name. The assurances apparently given by Kleinworts on behalf of the Fayed's and the bank's support for them was an important factor in the Secretary of State's decision not to refer the bid to the MMC.

## HERBERT SMITH

At the end of the meeting with the OFT on 11 March 1985 the representatives of Herbert Smith, who had acted as the Fayed's advocates, told the OFT that they were only willing to say what their professional judgment of their clients amounted to. In a letter which Herbert Smith sent to the OFT later that day it stressed that the contents of its clients' written submission were based on what its clients had told them, and that they were not confirmed by any independent source.

On the other hand, the letter continued by saying that two named partners in the firm "were and are entirely satisfied both as to the completeness and as to the accuracy of the instructions given to us by the Al-Fayed Brothers throughout the period that we have been instructed by them". It explained that the period had started in the previous June. This expression of opinion led to confusion about the extent of the firm's knowledge of its clients' affairs.

This qualified statement of confidence was directly associated with the submission to the OFT and it made an impact on the regulatory authorities. An official at the DTI was subsequently of the view that the reputations of the Board of HOF, of Kleinworts and of Herbert Smith were aligned with the Fayed's. We do not consider that this was an unreasonable view to take, although we understand the reasons why the firm maintains that the nature

of its support for its clients was misunderstood.

## THE HOF BOARD

The recommendation of the bid by the Board of HOF and its support for it, most notably from Professor Smith, were major factors in influencing the Secretary of State.

In reaching its decision to recommend the bid the Board of HOF did make some independent inquiries of the Fayed's and received advice from SG Warburg & Co Limited and other advisers.

We consider that the Board of HOF was entitled to take into account the counsel of its own

along with the investment in Sears, from HOF to HOFPI as security for its borrowing. Part of the consideration for the transfer of these assets has been satisfied by way of interest-free and reduced rate loans.

As a consequence the combined bank borrowings of HOFH and its subsidiaries amounted to £870 million as at 30 April 1988. The extent of these borrowings are such that HOF at its current rate of profitability does not generate sufficient funds from its ordinary trading activities to meet the interest liabilities of HOFH, HOFPI and HOF. We are inclined

on such a grand scale. They relied on what the Fayed's and their advisers were telling them which they tested to the extent which their resources permitted. This report raises issues which need to be considered by the OFT if it is to feel safe in relying on assurances by advisers on a future occasion.

Nevertheless the comfort taken by the OFT from the assurances of Kleinworts and Herbert Smith was greater than those advisers thought they were giving. This lack of meeting of minds on the giving and taking of comfort in this (or any other situation) must be overcome in future if healthy Government/City reliance and trust is to prosper.

## THE DTI

The timescale for consideration of the bid by the Secretary of State was short because of the DTI's self imposed wish to follow its usual practice of making a decision on whether to refer a bid before the bidder acquires effective control of a company. The timescale became absurdly short when Lorrho sold its shares in the market and the Fayed's acquired effective control at the same time as was pouring in to the Department and eventually arrived before the Secretary of State.

In our opinion it was impossible for officials and ministers to grasp the true significance of all the evidence which was before them and to reach an informed decision in such a short time. In the event the press release which said that the Secretary of State "... took into account the statements made and assurances given by the Al-Fayed Family..." the support given to those statements and assurances by Kleinworts Benson Limited and the fact that the Board of House of Fraser and its advisers... had announced that in the absence of unforeseen circumstances they intended to recommend the offer", placed most of the responsibility for the decision outside the Department.

to doubt whether there is sufficient potential in the existing business of HOF to generate the funds necessary to service the current level of group borrowings and the planned development of HOF, without realising some of the property portfolio.

The Fayed's have submitted to us that HOFH's holding company Al Fayed Investment and Trust SA ("AITSA") has large amounts of funds under management and that these are the Fayed's personal funds available to assist HOFH if needed.

## THE OFT

We see no reason to find any fault with the conduct of the Director General of Fair Trading and his staff in connection with the inquiries they made into the Fayed's offer for HOF in 1984-85. It is, we hope, rare for deception of regulatory authorities to be practised

● The Fayed's assets were worth a fraction of what they portrayed to the public ... Although the Fayed's were rich ... they had assets of only modest value in the context of a £600 million cash acquisition ●

financial advisers, Warburg, and the assurances given by the Fayed's through Kleinworts and we make no criticism of it.

## GROUP BORROWING

A large part of the funds used to acquire HOF have been replaced by bank borrowings. Further funds have subsequently been borrowed by HOF to finance its own development and also, in December 1987, to finance an investment (amounting to almost one-third of HOF's net asset value) in a 10 per cent holding in Sears Plc ("Sears").

This investment was subsequently refinanced in April 1988, through a new subsidiary of HOFH. This new subsidiary, House of Fraser Property Investment plc ("HOFPI"), however, is not financed independently from HOF. Two valuable freehold properties have been transferred,

## Ministers who passed on the poisoned chalice

The affair of the Fayed Brothers and House of Fraser was deemed the hottest issue facing Mr Nicholas Ridley when he became the latest in a fast-changing round of Secretaries of Trade and Industry in July.

Mr Ridley hopes he has finally cleared it off his desk with publication and a firm statement that he will take no further action. But he is by no means the first to cherish that hope.

Mr Norman Tebbit, who first cleared the Fayed bid, Sir Leon Brittan (by stone-walling) and Mr Paul Channon (by conceding an investigation) successively thought they had done so. Lord Young's resort to the Serious Fraud Office only made his life harder by delaying publication indefinitely at the SFO's behest.

The demonic persistence of

Mr Rowland, and the Government's determination to thwart rather than bow to him over an issue it considered unimportant, have combined with the unsavoury findings now revealed, to fashion this Government's most enduringly virulent poisoned chalice.

The affair has always been seen as a tedious administrative problem rather than a positive issue. Trade secretaries and junior ministers, backed by the Prime Minister, therefore became set in the negative posture of defending the original decisions made by Mr Tebbit in 1985.

Under pressure from events in the market, Mr Tebbit cleared the agreed Fayed bid for House of Fraser on March 14, in the exceptionally speedy time of 10 days, in part relying on the assurances from the Fayed's and their advisers.

The speed was remarkable

for another reason. Mr Rowland's Lorrho, a company once condemned by Mr Heath and repeatedly investigated in the past, was legally prevented from bidding, pending a Monopolies Commission report which had been signed 18 days before the Fayed's successful bid was announced.

The report left little reason for Mr Tebbit to maintain the ban on Lorrho bidding, in part because Lorrho had sold its HOF shares to the Fayed's. But it stayed until it was too late for Lorrho.

Mr Tebbit has since maintained that it was irrelevant where the Fayed's money came from so long as the cash offer could be financed.

Since no competition issues were involved, this is entirely consistent with the merger policy first announced by Mr Tebbit.

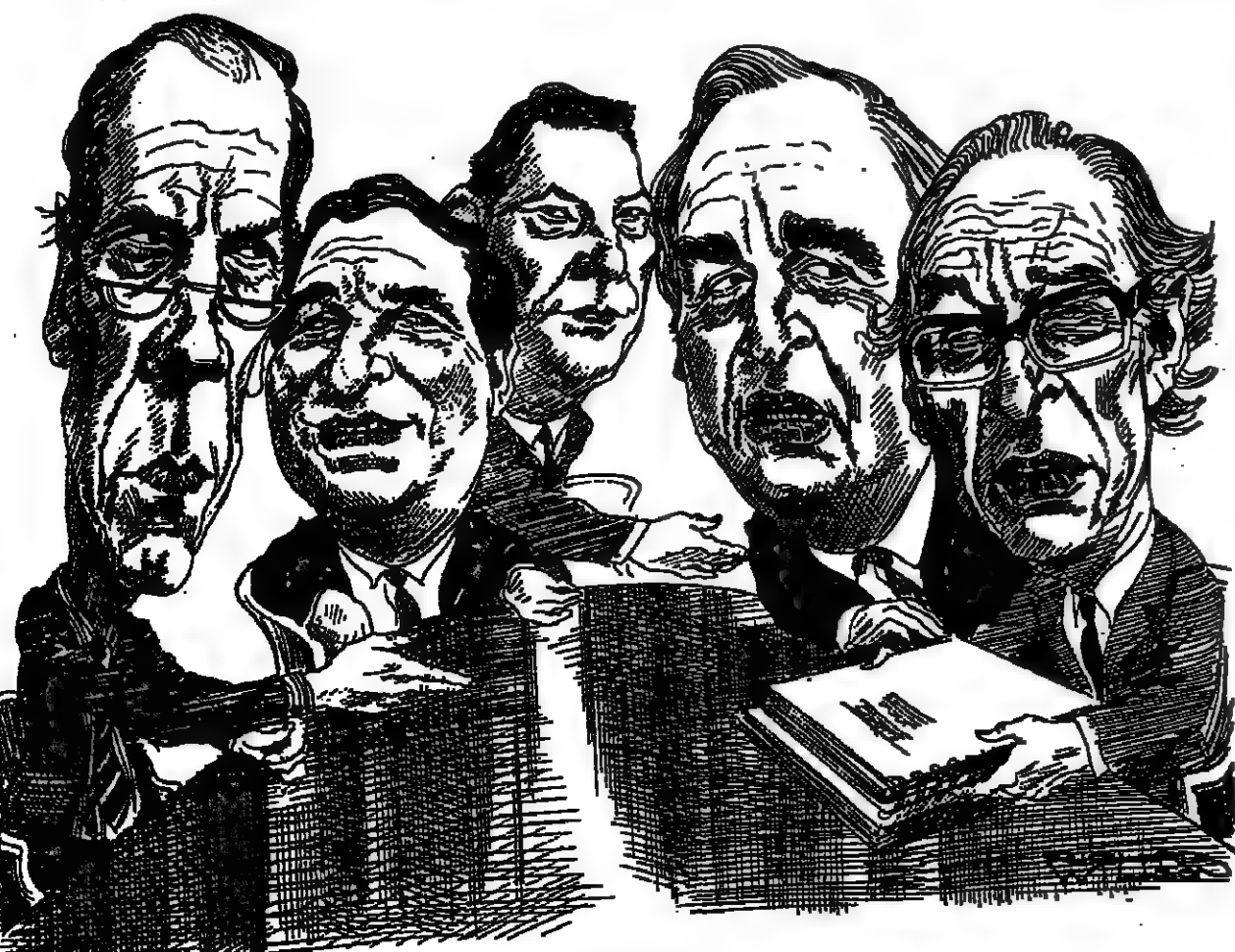
Government will normally only intervene in bids on

issues of competition or strategic national interest; other matters, such as financial effects and the standing of bidders, can be left to the market.

But Lorrho's pursuit of HOF and Harrods had lasted so long that, even under the present Government, it spanned dramatic changes in merger policy.

The ban on Lorrho bidding stemmed from 1981, when Mr John Biffen, pursuing doubts expressed by his predecessor Sir John Nott, preferred an earlier conglomerate bid by Lorrho.

The bid was vetoed largely because of Mr Rowland's character. The MMC thought this might create tensions between Lorrho and the existing management of House of Fraser that could harm efficiency. Such thinking, long repudiated, left others to cope with Mr Rowland's bitterness.



Men in the hot seat: Trade Secretaries Norman Tebbit, Leon Brittan, Paul Channon, Lord Young and Nicholas Ridley



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Barclays Interest	4%	6%
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An A on the turn, 1000BC

Never take letters for granted.

The Yoruba tribe of Nigeria once used cowrie shells to communicate with each other. Six sent to your beloved meant, "I fancy you." Eight sent back in reply meant, "I'll leave the door open."

It was of course vital to be able to count accurately.

Other early forms of communication took even more cryptic form.

Peruvian Quipus - knotted cords of different colours - were used by Inca Civil Servants as a sort of filing system for public records.

These are still used in Lambeth today.

The Quipu may have been alright for beating llamas, but as a way of communicating, it couldn't beat writing: "the greatest invention of man" according to Abraham Lincoln.

In the earliest stages of writing, letters were drawn like pictures (pictographs).

The first pictographic "writing" was Sumerian from around 4000BC.

The most famous was Egyptian hieroglyphic - sacred writing engraved in stone. This meant absolutely nothing to anyone until a Frenchman called Champollion succeeded in working out and writing the name of Cleopatra from hieroglyphs on the Rosetta Stone in 1822. Realising what he'd done, he cried out "Je tiens l'affaire!" ("I've cracked it!"), and promptly collapsed in a heap.



K L E O P A T R A

We can also congratulate the Egyptians for developing the pen and papyrus. It may not seem much to you, but it was a damn sight easier to tuck under your arm than a chisel and a block of granite.

To keep the number of signs down to a minimum, the Egyptians adopted the rebus principle - a pictorial way of substituting pictures for words or syllables. Need say more?

Pity the Chinese didn't grasp this principle. Even now their written language has 50,000 graphic characters. (Incidentally, in early Chinese the signs for 'woman' plus 'broom' meant 'wife'. 'Woman' plus 'woman' meant 'quarrel' - the earliest example of sexism in literature.)

And so, as scholars' jaws drop even lower, let us skip to the alphabetic system of writing 'invented' some 3,600 years ago.

The word alphabet is simply the combined Greek names for the first two letters, alpha and beta.

The first letter of the Hebrew ('alef'), Arabic ('alif'), Greek (alpha) and Latin (A) alphabets all came from this: which over the years changed into something we all recognise, don't we A?



Phoenician, circa 1000BC

The first alphabet is believed to have come from the Semites. But it was the Phoenicians who aimed to devise a true alphabet which relied on one symbol to represent one sound.

Early alphabetic scripts could be read from top to bottom, left to right, right to left and, at one period in Greek history, were written in boustrophedon - as the ox ploughs - from right to left and back again from left to right. Confused? You will be...



Greek, circa 550BC

Hallelujah! The Greeks stop the Phoenician alphabet spinning round and get everybody to agree to read from left to right. Except those poor Chinese of course...



Roman letter, 114AD

And on to the alphabet we inherited from the Romans. The most perfect expression of the letters is chiselled

into the base of the Trajan Column in Rome. By common consent, these *Capitalis Romana* are known as the most beautiful of all Roman letters and were the prototype for western letter forms.

About 50AD, the last letter in the alphabet was X. Then after conquering Greece and learning a few Greek jokes that needed a bit of explaining, the Latins added Y and Z. J and U were added in the early Middle Ages and W arrived in the 11th century - just in time for Beowulf.

Meanwhile, back in the court of Emperor Wu Di, a Chinese eunuch called Cai Lun with no balls but one hell of an imagination, invented paper. Made from tree bark, fish nets and old rags, it took over 1,000 years to reach Europe.



Black letter, 13th century

Whizzing past the order for one Domesday Book placed in 1086 (famous for its paw spelling), here's a cultural handrail to give you some perspective on the 12th century. In the whole of Europe there were only four universities: Paris, Oxford, Bologna and Salerno.

As books were becoming more of a commercial enterprise, the need to cram more and more onto a page produced the Gothic or Black Letter. De rigueur for religious manuscripts, it still plagues wedding invites and made Chaucer a swine to read even then.



Rustic Capital, 4th-5th century

Unless you're really into calligraphy (another Greek word of course), we can skip Rustic Capitals and a few hundred years. During this time generations of poor, benighted scribes tried fruitlessly to improve on Roman lettering and developed something they called 'book hand'. This is probably related to 'scribe's bottom' or 'copyist's squint'.

The Roman Empire went bust round about now and the barbarians turned it into a bingo hall.



Uncial letter, 7th century

As the dust settled on the Roman Empire, *Litterae Unciales* (inch-high letters), were the chubby little heroes of the day. Belted off by scribes who skidded round corners and joined strokes to save time, they were now being written on parchment, "that stuff that we wrythe vpon: and is made of beestis skynnes."

ALL LETTERS WERE STILL IN CAPITALS.



But they got a lot smaller in the 6th century when the lowercase letter started popping up. As did the Vikings, the 8th century's very own lager louts who, despite destroying every monastery they could find, missed those responsible for the two masterpieces of Celtic illuminated writing - The Book of Kells and the Lindisfarne Gospels.

The latter was once stolen and found later, buried and minus its gold cover. Even in the Middle Ages, people nicked books. To try and stop this, scribes would often add a curse in the colophon as in this 9th century manuscript:

"Whoe'er this book to make his own doth plot, The fires of hell and brimstone be his lot."

And it wasn't until about 600AD that words began to be separated. Uptillthenobodysawanyreasonstoput spacebetween them.



Carolingian letter, 8th century

Fed up with trying to decipher the cryptic handwriting of scribes from all over his empire, Charlemagne headhunted the top man from the Scriptorium at York and gave him the job of creating a single standard of handwriting - the first bit of corporate design ever.

Charged almost literally with rewriting history, Alcuin of York developed Carolingian letters - a clearly legible book hand, and the direct ancestor of our lowercase alphabet and most basic type styles of today.

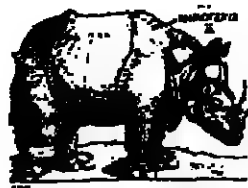


Geoffrey Tory from 'Champ Fleury' 1529

The Renaissance interest in geometry and ideal form pushed many to try

and redefine the proportions of the old Roman Capitals using the mutual proportions of the human body.

One such was Geoffrey Tory, one of the biggest men in French letters, no, hang on...



Albrecht Dürer relied on nothing more than a sketch and a description of a rhino for this woodcut which was a sell out and went through eight editions.

Unlike the rhino, which went through the ship's hold on its way to Pope Leo X and had to be forwarded to him, stuffed.



From 'The Mother's Picture Alphabet' of 1862



Typecase, 1850s

'The Adventures of Tom Sawyer' was the first novel to be written on a type-writer in 1875. Mark Twain dismissed his Remington as a "new fangled thing."



Morris, 1890s

Better known to Yuppies for his wallpapers and textiles, the poet William Morris started the Kelmscott Press in 1891 to revive the beauty of typography that book production lost, in his opinion, somewhere in the 15th century.



Johnston's Railway Type, 1918

The first sans serif (letters without pointy bits), of the 20th century was Johnston's Railway Type designed for the London Underground in 1918.



Times New Roman, 1932

Without doubt the most influential authority on printing and typography this century, Stanley Morison is most publicly remembered for re-designing The Times. The October 3rd issue of 1932 was the first to feature his Times New Roman.



Michel Medium, 1960s

A zip through the last 50 years. Machines took over from men to pursue the goal of ever clearer letters, set ever more quickly.

Up to the turn of the century however, book print was put together by 'Pica Thumpers' - so called after a size of type.

Paid by the 'ennage' (or length of setting) they had a sneaky habit of slipping extra space into the line. It's easy to spot their work. Then along came the computer...



is for Epson's TLQ 4800. The last word in computer printing technology and the first 48 pin dot matrix in the world.

And not satisfied with an invention that makes printing history, Epson have invented a whole new word to describe how they did it - Supermechanics.

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E is also the beginning of the end.

ET SIC FINIS



EPSON



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2	Lancaster	Motor, Aircraft	Div
3	Nichols (JN) (Vento)	Food	Div
4	More O'Ferrall	Paper, Print, Adv	Div
5	Watson & Philip	Food	Div
6	PI Carroll	Tobacco	Div
7	Wace	Paper, Print, Adv	Div
8	RHM (sa)	Food	Div
9	Abbey National (sa)	Banking	Div
10	Croda	Chemicals, Plastics	Div
11	Br Aerospace (sa)	Motor, Aircraft	Div
12	Wellcome (sa)	Pharmaceuticals	Div
13	Lec Refrigeration	Electricals	Div
14	Color Corp	Oil, Gas	Div
15	Cookson (sa)	Metals	Div
16	Sieck (sa)	Electricals	Div
17	Eastern Prod	Industrial A-D	Div
18	STC (sa)	Electricals	Div
19	Traspaire H (sa)	Industrial S-Z	Div
20	NMC Group	Industrial L-R	Div
21	Br Petroleum (sa)	Oil, Gas	Div
22	Regal	Property	Div
23	Gosnell Whit	Breweries	Div
24	Barratt (H)	Industrial A-D	Div
25	Stewart (Wm)	Industrial S-Z	Div
26	Odyssey-Swamp (sa)	Food	Div
27	Scholar Corp	Electricals	Div
28	Thames (sa)	Motor, Aircraft	Div
29	Warner Howard	Industrial S-Z	Div
30	Barton (sa)	Drugs, Stores	Div
31	Prior Marine	Property	Div
32	Memor	Electricals	Div
33	Star Arrow (sa)	Industrial A-D	Div
34	Lucas (sa)	Motor, Aircraft	Div
35	Land Sec (sa)	Property	Div
36	Klein-Etze	Industrial S-Z	Div
37	McKintosh	Industrial L-R	Div
38	Helical Bar	Property	Div
39	Power Corp	Property	Div
40	Rolls-Royce (sa)	Motor, Aircraft	Div
41	LWT Corp	Leisure	Div
42	Thames (sa)	Transport	Div
43	Warrington	Paper, Print, Adv	Div
44	Syncom	Industrial S-Z	Div

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NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS		

OIL, GAS		

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# STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares marked higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 26. Dealings end tomorrow. Settlement day March 12. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

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1989/90		Company	Price		Change	Ytd %	P/E
High	Low		Mid	Offer			
18	670	Schwab	17	176	28.8	1.5	18.7
165	490	Swiss Cant	17	176	28.8	1.5	4.9
147	50	720 (m)	134	237	7.7	3.7	20.8
171	470	Delta Inc	545	597	44.8	8.0	26.8
565	270	Western So	498	498	12.7	3.8	14.4
55	25	Wm Pitt	154	151	8.8	3.3	
224	225	Western	267	245	4.1		
484	484	Western	489	415	18.8	2.8	22.8







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## BIRMINGHAM

## FOCUS

## A SPECIAL REPORT

by Craig Seton



New heart: skyline showing the development of Birmingham, which has up to £2 billion worth of projects under way or scheduled, and on which a new prosperity will be based, and (right) the International Convention Centre due to open early next year

Birmingham is finding it hard to get rid of the Bull Ring — the mammoth shopping area created in the 1960s that became the unofficial trademark of Britain's second city. Everyone seems to want it to go, and the bulldozers are waiting to move in.

But the £400-million scheme scheduled to replace it has yet to receive the official sanction of the city council. The redevelopment of the Bull Ring is expected to go ahead, creating one million sq ft of shopping space, but it has been delayed by a year while Birmingham debate continues over what form its future centre should take.

There is a growing desire to avoid the planning mistakes of 25 years ago when pedestrians and shoppers were consigned to a subterranean role in tunnels and underground precincts, while vehicles were given the freedom of the inner ring road above.

Moreover, Birmingham wants to create an exciting new visage to replace the soulless image of the past as it seeks an identity as an international business city and developments on an attractive scale that will remain acceptable to

## Towards a brighter image

The expected redevelopment of the Bull Ring is one of the ways that Birmingham hopes to improve its environment

"Brummies" right through to the next century.

The city is making great strides towards its new destiny. Up to £2 billion worth of redevelopment is under way or scheduled, much of it sparked off by the £150-million International Convention Centre (ICC) under construction, and on which it hopes a new commercial prosperity will be based.

The ICC is due to open in April next year, in advance of the 1992 single European market and all that that promises for potential new business.

The London and Edinburgh Trust has outlined planning consent for its proposed 26-acre Bull Ring development, but the original plans are back on the drawing board for design changes.

Revised plans are expected to be submitted in a few months time, but the scheduled completion date has been put back to 1997.

Councillor Frank McLoughlin,

chairman of the Labour-controlled council's planning committee, said: "There is nothing wrong with the concept, but we want to make sure it will be good for the citizens of Birmingham and the people who will use it."

He said there was a wider debate over the future of the present city centre, which the Prince of Wales has described as a "monstrous concrete maze".

Councillor McLoughlin added: "The city centre is to be for people and pedestrians. That is sacrosanct. We want it to be people-friendly."

The debate over the Bull Ring has not dented the council from the massive programme of regeneration which began as Birmingham

emerged bloodied, but apparently unbowed, from the recession. In a 15-year span an estimated 200,000 manufacturing jobs disappeared, a cruel blow to a city whose wealth was created by trade and industry.

However, unemployment has since fallen dramatically and traditional industries that survived the recession are steadily being joined by modern, hi-tech companies, many of them based in thriving business parks.

Though manufacturing remains vital (30 per cent of the workforce is still in this sector), the new direction is intended to diversify further into the service sector and commerce. An estimated 1.25 million sq ft of office space was under

construction by the end of 1989, centenary year of Birmingham's being granted city status.

The huge amount of private sector money flooding into the city has occurred during a lengthy period of Labour rule at the Council House, headquarters of Birmingham city council.

Despite the activities of a left-wing caucus that threw the Labour group into turmoil during one prolonged period, the council has avoided a "loony left" tag — and through the large degree of consensus that prevails it has made developers welcome.

The council, for instance, is a minority partner to five big construction companies involved in a £1-billion scheme, called Birmingham

Heartlands, designed to regenerate a blighted 2,500-acre swathe of east Birmingham through office, industrial, leisure and residential developments.

The council hopes that the gathering momentum of such schemes will transform Birmingham and its prospects for prosperity.

To those who say that the ICC will be a huge gamble as it seeks a slice of the tough international convention market, the response is that another Birmingham initiative — the National Exhibition Centre — was also condemned as a white elephant, but became Britain's biggest exhibition location.

The tower cranes that are a common manifestation of regeneration are also at work alongside the ICC on the construction of a £50-million national indoor sports arena, due to open in October, 1991.

On the face of it, Birmingham's

prospects look good, although the council and the city's commercial and industrial leaders remain aware that they must destroy once and for all the negative image the city finds difficult to throw off.

The need for good restaurants, decent public houses and wine bars and London-style shopping are part of an overall strategy to have Birmingham regarded as an international and national centre rather than a provincial city.

The campaign extends to its cultural profile, which was undervalued as low until the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet announced that it will relocate to Birmingham, already proud of its Birmingham Rattle-led City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

All the while, the city has been able to point to its good communications at the heart of the motorway network, its main line rail links to London and its fast-growing international airport — where a new Eurohub terminal is to be built to cope with the demand for scheduled flights to European centres.

A £1 billion light rail system link Birmingham to the Black Country is also coming nearer to fruition.

● Aston Science Park, created in 1983 in a joint venture by Birmingham City Council, Lloyd's Bank and Aston University, is now home to 64 hi-tech companies.

● A survey of 500 manufacturing and service companies up to the end of 1989 found 42 per cent reported a reduced level of home orders, while 32 per cent reported increased export orders. The majority of them called for lower interest rates to improve their prospects.

### Home of hi-tech

● Birmingham claims to have more miles of canal than Venice.

● A record 3,428,481 passengers passed through Birmingham International Airport last year — its 50th anniversary — an increase of almost 20 per cent on 1988 and more than double the number carried in 1978.

● Birmingham Cable Corporation, through its subsidiary Birmingham Cable Ltd., is to build a cable communications network covering Birmingham and Solihull and offering cable TV and telephone services to 495,000 households and 28,000 businesses by 1997.

● The West Midlands Development Agency reported that there were 700 overseas companies based in the region with a total investment of £2.5 billion.

● Birmingham's population in 1989 was 887,000 compared with 454,000 a century ago, when it was granted city status. At least 75 per cent of the working population were employed in manufacturing.

● West Midlands Police Credit Union of Birmingham claims to be the fastest growing British credit union with assets exceeding £1 million — and loans totalling £2 million.

The team promoting and marketing the International Convention Centre has travelled the world to drum up business for the £150 million complex.

The ICC has representation in The Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany and on the eastern seaboard of the United States as it gears up to attract conventions, congresses, exhibitions and meetings to its 11 halls. It has attracted a £37 million grant from the European Community, but the ICC remains an expensive proposition for Birmingham, which is funding its construction through a company set up to manage the National Exhibition Centre for the city council.

### Beating the Brum

Birmingham wants the ICC to be regarded as a unique national asset capable of attracting international business and, together with the National Exhibition Centre, to be a dual attraction to exhibitors and conventioners. The prospect of the business it will generate has already created a hotel building boom in Birmingham.

That is why a team led by Barry Cleverdon, sales and marketing director, has travelled the world to talk to potential customers. Presentations have been held in Paris, New York and Washington, Spain, Scandinavia and Japan are next to be courted.

Mr Cleverdon said there was a stream of customers willing to book the ICC. A big catch is the International Congress of Genetics, which will bring 5,000 delegates to the centre in August 1993. Others include the 1992 Law Society annual conference and an International Olympic Committee session.

An inspired move worth following.



Photo: Leslie Spatt

When Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet announced its move to Britain's new entertainment heartland to become the Birmingham Royal Ballet it was following some famous footsteps.

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For the facts on the attractions of Birmingham ring 021-235 4880 or write to Birmingham City Council, Promotions and Media Unit, Council House, Birmingham B1 1BB.

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## FOCUS

BIRMINGHAM/2

# All set for the next century

The willingness of Birmingham's Labour Council to do business with the private sector has created a framework for co-operation with its Tory opposition

For almost six of the 11 years that Mrs Thatcher's Conservative Government has dominated the national political arena, the Labour Party has controlled Birmingham, the country's second largest city and regarded by many as the most sought-after electoral prize among the local authorities.

Though it is frustrating for the city council's Conservative opposition, there has been a degree of political consensus over the path the city should follow in the 1990s. Even when the largely moderate Labour group raised the rates by 43 per cent in one year and later descended into turmoil over the activities of a significant minority of left-wing members, the Tories were unable to turn it to their long-term advantage.

Labour's six years in office have been under the leadership of Sir Richard Knowles, who, at 72, is a veteran local government politician. He has a background as a Labour Party organizer and is known for his no-nonsense attitude and his belief that politics is about power. He acted ruthlessly against the group's left, which had accused him of abandoning socialism, and appears to have subdued its activities.

Sir Richard was once described as a "machine politician", and was told by a senior Tory minister that his problem was that he thought like a capitalist, which was presumably intended as a compliment.

Central to Sir Richard's leader-

ship has been his willingness, and thus the willingness of most of his group, to do business with the private sector in a multitude of schemes designed to regenerate the local economy after the recession.

The city council is a minority partner in the country's only private-sector led development agency, in which five big construction companies are drawing up a £1 billion project to redevelop more than 2,000 acres of east Birmingham. Government and European Community grants have also assisted the city's redevelopment.

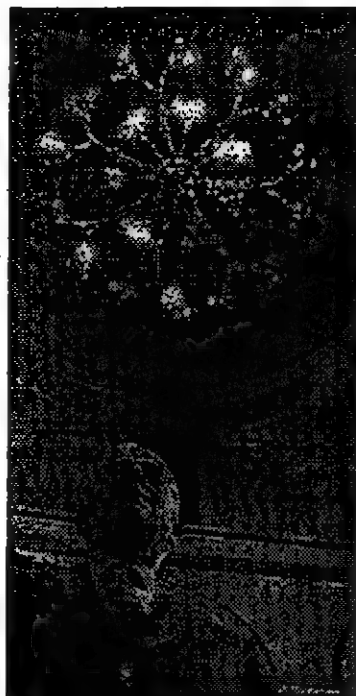
The fact that the private sector has been embraced by the council over the years has resulted in a large degree of agreement on the city council. It has also brought accusations from the left, representing about 21 of the 67 seats held by Labour, which said Sir Richard cared more for enterprise than services. This was as the city sought a new destiny as an international business city, based on the expected pulling power of the £150 million International Convention Centre, due to open next year, and the Birmingham-based National Exhibition Centre, the country's largest exhibition venue.

Linked to the ICC development will be the first purpose-built hotel to be opened in the UK by the Hyatt International Corporation.

Sir Richard sees nothing wrong with the local authority spearheading such schemes in which the private sector is involved. "Nobody questions my commitment to



Private-sector hawk: Sir Richard



A philosophical Tory: Reg Hales

socialism, not even the most left-wing member of the Labour Party in Birmingham," he says. "The real argument is whether a mixed economy is incompatible with socialism."

■ Birmingham City Council is offering a £35,000 salary package to attract a director of public affairs to manage a 40-strong team promoting the city as a "pioneer for change in Europe".

and I do not think it is. Paternalism is all wrong."

Sir Richard, who was knighted last year for his services to local government, believes his group is maintaining Birmingham's tra-

"Our logo ought to be the crane and bulldozer because we rebuild the city about every 20 years"

dition of municipal enterprise for which Joseph Chamberlain, one of the city's most famous sons, is remembered. "I think we shall be an international city — there is no doubt about that — but that means we have got to do a lot of other things. It is no good just building the convention centre. We have to have shops to go with it, make the city centre more accessible to pedestrians and re-build the Bull Ring. Our slogan is 'the big heart of England', but our logo ought to be the crane and bulldozer because we knock the city down and rebuild it about every 20 years."

Sir Richard believes Labour could well retain control of the city council for another three years, during which time both education and social services would be a

priority. And there is no sign that he is ready to give up the leadership of his group or that there will be any serious attempt to oust him. Reg Hales, aged 60, the Conservative group leader who has been in local government for almost 30 years, is philosophical about his party's long period in opposition, although he foresees trouble ahead for the Labour group through its "prodigious" decision to impose a £400-a-head community charge on the city. He claims that it has been set deliberately high in the hope that the Government will be blamed.

Mr Hales said: "The community charge will be a great step forward in accountability and in the long term it has got to be to our advantage. It will make the council accountable for the very first time. We are delighted that Labour is working with the private sector. A lot of the problems of the Labour group have been caused because many left-wingers believe it is following Conservative principles and has abandoned socialism."

He said there was a bi-partisan approach to projects like the convention centre, although Labour had over-run the budget on that scheme by about £25 million. The ICC and NEC were both Conservative projects which Labour had taken over, he said.

"I do not think," he added, "that there is any doubt that Birmingham is going to be the city of the next century. Of all the cities in the country, it has pulled itself up by its bootstraps."

## Polishing the jewel in the city's crown

Just across Birmingham's inner ring road, separated from the city centre, is a historic industrial area, where the £150 million International Convention Centre is under construction.

The Jewellery Quarter remains a centre of British jewellery-making. Plans have been announced to improve its appeal as a residential and business area close to the centre of the city, while highlighting its tourist potential.

The quarter is an important part of the city council's strategy for industrial improvement under which grants are available for restoring and refurbishing dilapidated buildings.

The council is planning to identify "quarters" separated from the city centre by the inner ring road. It wants to enhance the character of these areas, but also integrate them with the city centre.

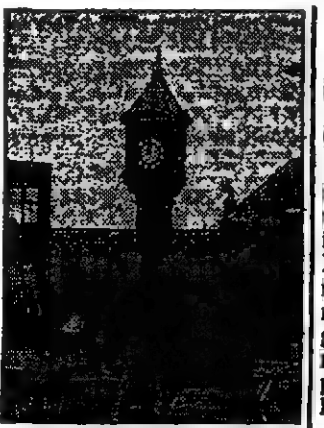
Other quarters include Chinatown, where Avatar is undertaking a £30 million

business and leisure development; the Gunpowder Quarter; the Greater Convention Centre area, where the £150 million International Convention Centre is under construction; Warwick Bar and Digbeth, where a media zone is being created; and Aston Triangle, which contains Aston University campus and the Aston Science Park.

Part of the plan to regenerate the Jewellery Quarter involves a proposed jewellery business centre in a council-owned block of derelict buildings.

Under the joint-venture scheme between the city council and Grosvenor Laing Urban Enterprise, a long lease has been granted to the Duchy of Cornwall, which has awarded a £2.7 million contract to Wates Construction to begin work on the project. The Department of Environment is also providing £1 million.

Other plans for the area include a £750,000 museum and exhibition centre dedi-



Commerce mixes with history

cated to the jewellery industry. The city council believes manufacturing and industry must be maintained in the Jewellery Quarter, although new developments, including residential and leisure projects, will be considered. Planners also want to use the Birmingham and Fazeley Canal, which passes through the district, as a tourist attraction and centrepiece of new water-side developments.

The city council has recognized that the Jewellery Quarter suffers from its physical isolation from the city centre because of the inner ring road.

think minorities represent about 15 per cent of Birmingham's population of about a million, most of them from Asian and Afro-Caribbean backgrounds.

It is estimated that there are more than 100 ethnic groups in the city, many of them living in inner-city areas such as Handsworth and Sparkbrook, representing different racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. Among the most recent are Vietnamese boat people, arriving from Hong Kong to settle with relatives.

The multi-racial nature of Birmingham is reflected by the composition of the city council, where 17 of the 117 Labour councillors have Asian and Afro-Caribbean origins. One of them is Najma Haque, deputy chair of the education committee and a magistrate, who came to Birmingham with her family from Pakistan in 1964.

She says: "I am very proud of the way Birmingham is developing. I think most black people will say that they have been treated very sympathetically in Birmingham, compared with other cities."

"It does not mean that we do not still suffer problems of

## Rich mix of races

racism and, in my case, sexism. But for me and my family, Birmingham has been very good to us. We want to stay here and make a contribution to repay what the city has done for us."

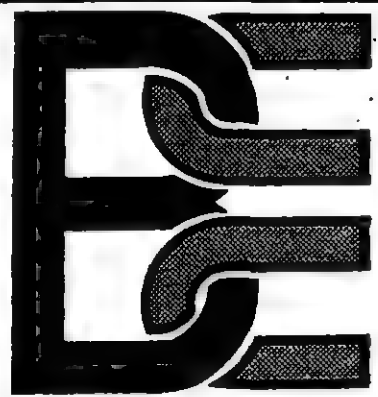
She accepts that most people from the ethnic minorities live in inner-city areas, such as Sparkbrook and Handsworth, where there were serious disturbances in 1985 leading to two deaths and millions of pounds worth of property damage. But she says they are not ghettoes.

"The atmosphere in Hand-

worth and in the inner-city areas and the way they are being developed is really very good. I think people will integrate naturally and, if you look at the black population, there is a progression of people moving away from the inner cities as they grow up."

Councillor Haque accepts that Islamic fundamentalism is an issue, but says most Muslims are not extremists. "People need to feel they can practise their own religion and morals, whether they are Irish or Muslims. If you try to suppress it, people will rebel. If you say people have got to integrate and become westernized and that their children have to attend school with a predominantly Christian assembly, they will feel threatened."

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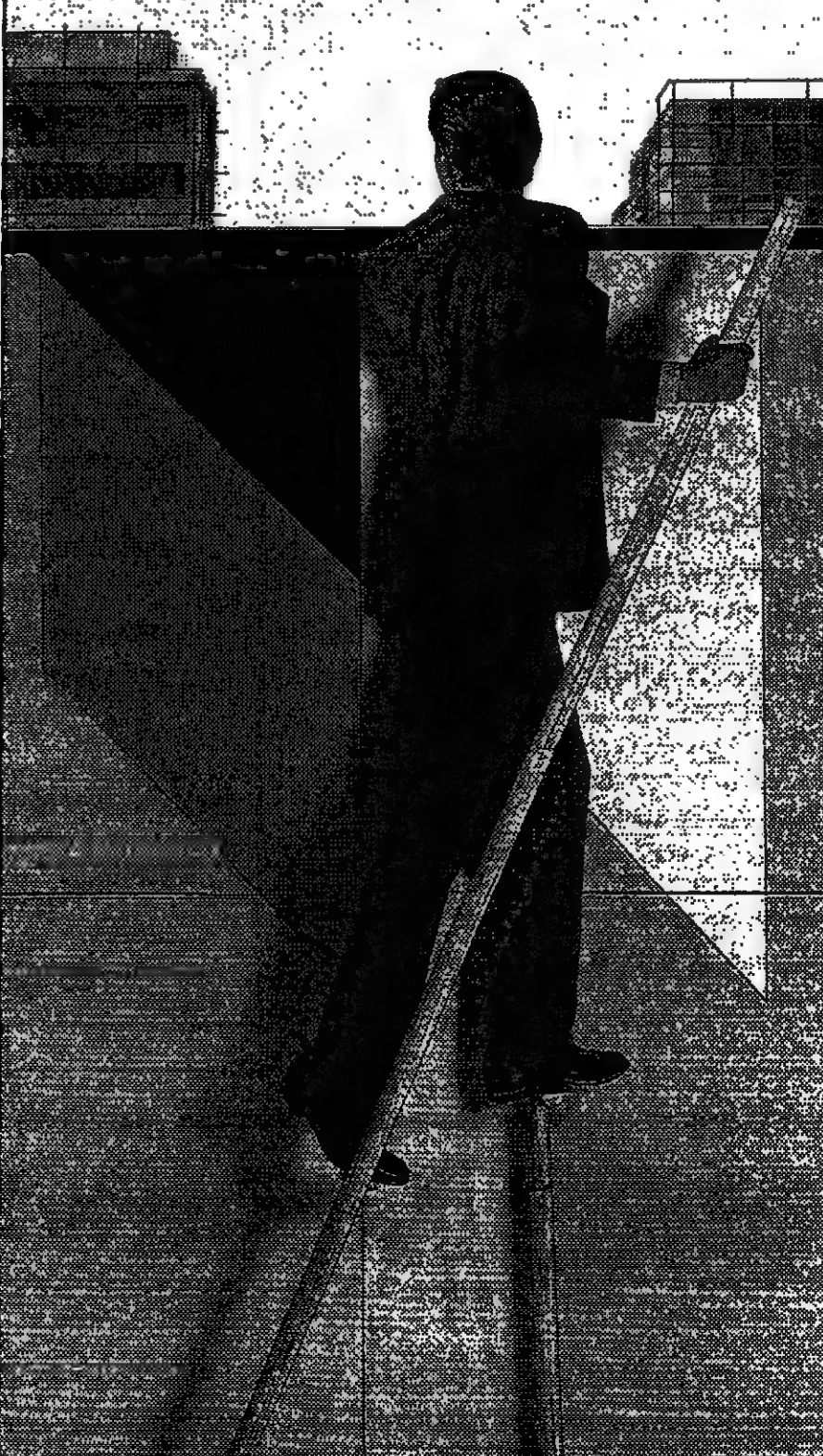
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BIRMINGHAM/3

FOCUS

# New soul of a great old industrial city



Rattle and Brum: with Birmingham's orchestra, Simon Rattle represents a beacon of culture in an otherwise barren landscape

Customers in Birmingham's James Brindley public house were not mistaken. There among the small group of young people in the corner was Kenneth Branagh, the actor hailed as a new Lawrence Olivier. Beside him was his wife, the actress Emma Thompson.

Was the presence of the two rising stars of stage and screen in a Birmingham pub a demonstration of the city's claim that it was rapidly ascending the cultural and artistic ladder?

In fact, the actors were appearing across the road at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, which Mr Branagh had chosen for the British launch last year of his Renaissance Theatre Company. It brought to Britain's second city Shakespearean productions acknowledged to be of a

quality rarely found outside London or Stratford.

Mr Branagh and his company have since moved on, leaving Birmingham to the job of convincing a hitherto doubtful public that the name of the city and the pursuit of cultural and artistic excellence can be spoken of in the same breath without raising a hollow laugh.

Ironically, in terms of more popular entertainment, Birmingham has been able to boast a considerable reputation through events at the National Exhibition Centre, on the eastern outskirts of the city, where the Arena auditorium

has reverberated to the sound of some of the world's best-known singers and groups, including Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Tina Turner, Barry Manilow and Fleetwood Mac. Birmingham also has an annual jazz festival which is gaining rapidly in status and popularity.

However, in previous years it had seemed that the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and its world-class conductor, Simon Rattle, comprised the only beacon of classical "high-brow" entertainment in an otherwise barren cultural landscape. More building work is

under way on a project intended to enhance further Birmingham's image: the new home of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, relocating from London to the Birmingham Hippodrome theatre. The council is spending £4 million to build a headquarters and studios for the company and will join with the Arts Council in providing another £2 million of funding.

The Hippodrome was already a second home to Sadler's Wells, but the news of its permanent move was trumpeted by city leaders with the kind of gusto normally reserved for an announcement that a leading manufacturer was about to create thousands of new jobs.

The delight signified the importance Birmingham now attaches to developments that chip away at the old image of a grey, soulless and, above all, provincial city.

The 1980s were an unhappy time for Birmingham's two universities. The University of Birmingham and the University of Aston suffered the cuts and retrenchment endured by universities across the country. However, the gloom is lifting and both are talking of opportunities for expansion.

The academic and financial health of Birmingham University, which has a reputation for engineering and science, and Aston, a leading technological university, is considered of critical importance for a city striving for a reputation as a European business centre and at a time when the two institutions are forging closer links through research collaboration with local commerce and industry.

Professor Michael Thompson, Birmingham University's vice-chancellor and principal, recognized this when he said: "It is encouraging that the city has taken the view that a major international city of the 21st century must have amongst its most glittering assets a great university of international standing. We can provide that."

At Aston, on the other side of the city centre, the message is equally bullish. Academic staff there have been told that the university is poised to surge up the university league by the mid-1990s.

Prof Thompson also spoke of the prospect of expanding by as many as 1,000 students — about 10 per cent — over the next few years. He said: "The university is changing and is going to continue to change very rapidly. We now have the remarkable phenomenon — not seen in universities for more than 20 years — of the deans and heads of schools worrying about the problem of how to cope with rapid expansion. There are some exciting opportunities. The problems are difficult and solving them will be very demanding, but I believe the new climate is very good for Birmingham."

The optimism centres on government statements that numbers in higher education should increase substantially over the next 25 years and the introduction of a system of competitive bidding through the Universities Funding Council, which will determine the number of students in universities.



A great asset of international standing: Birmingham University strives for new excellence

## Learning lessons

The city's two universities are set for growth

Aston and Birmingham universities have emerged from the recession in academia leaner and fitter after a decade of seeking more effective use of resources and additional funding from sources other than the Government purse.

Prof Thompson believes that Birmingham University will attract more students from groups that were once unrepresented, particularly women, ethnic minorities and mature students. The numbers could also include more "day" students from the region.

University commissioned a MORI poll to discover how the institution was rated. Among managers in industry and commerce, it came fourth in Britain and overall was regarded as in the top ten.

At Aston, Prof Sir Frederick Crawford, the vice-chancellor, believes the institution laid solid foundations for growth during the struggles of the past decade. He said: "The pay-off from our massive restructuring programme in the 1980s is already evident from it; Aston is almost clear of the danger zone, and poised ready to surge up the university by the mid-1990s..."

Last year, Birmingham

A review of the property market has concluded that Birmingham has emerged from the dark tunnel of the recession with its economy more buoyant than at almost any time in the last 100 years. The study, completed before the latest rise in mortgage interest rates, acknowledges the "greatly depressed" state of the housing market and caution in the retail sector. However, it judges from a detailed assessment of property across the commercial, industrial, leisure and residential sectors that there is

## An office property market to build on

growing confidence in opportunities for the 1990s.

The review was conducted by Grimley JR Eve, a firm of chartered surveyors. It claims the West Midlands office market is at the start of a new era because of the growing number of companies relocating in the region, especially from the South-east.

By October last year, almost

1.25 million sq ft of office space was under construction in Birmingham, which is in third place behind London and Manchester in terms of office concentration.

The report says that on average the cost of office space in central London, taking account of rents, rates and services charges, is four times higher than in central Birmingham, although the gap between

Birmingham and the South-east is expected to close.

It expects that prime areas for office location in Birmingham will be in the Broad Street area, where the £150 million International Convention Centre (ICC) is being built, and Birmingham Heartlands, where Britain's first private-sector led development agency is organizing development

packages for the regeneration of 2,000 acres of derelict land.

The report warns that demand for industrial accommodation is outstripping supply in the region and that rents for prime industrial units in Birmingham have increased by up to 50 per cent over the past two years, although they have recently consolidated.

The survey also records strong

demand for space in business parks. A prime growth area is expected to be in the east and south east of Birmingham, where the first stage of the new M40 motorway was recently opened to link with the M42. However, the survey notes caution in the retail property market, which has suffered a downturn, and hesitancy among leading retailers to expand

because of the economic climate.

The hotel sector is one of the fastest-growing in Birmingham, spurred by the business expected to be generated by the convention centre and the report notes a revival in tennis bowling and bingo facilities and greater demand for cinemas and nightclubs.

In the residential market, the report says that landowners are reluctant to sell at prices which, in some cases, are half those of a year ago. Despite the depressed state of the housing market, there are still proposals for new developments.



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## Winning at sport

A £50-million National Indoor Arena for Sport is being built on a site adjoining the International Convention Centre in Birmingham.

Due to open in October next year, it will be able to stage international athletic and other indoor sporting events.

The arena will have a six-lane, 200-metre athletics track, which can be removed to create a main floor area for other big events, such as championship boxing, with a capacity of 13,000 spectators.

Beneath the main arena will be a community sports hall. There will also be parking for

2,600 vehicles. Terry Golding, chief executive of the National Exhibition Centre, which is responsible for marketing and management of the arena, says: "It will provide Britain with a superb indoor sports venue to attract international events."

"And it will offer a facility to sports which have been previously neglected." The arena is bidding to host the World Gymnastics Championships in 1993, the European Men's Volleyball Championships in 1995 and the World Netball Championships in 1995.

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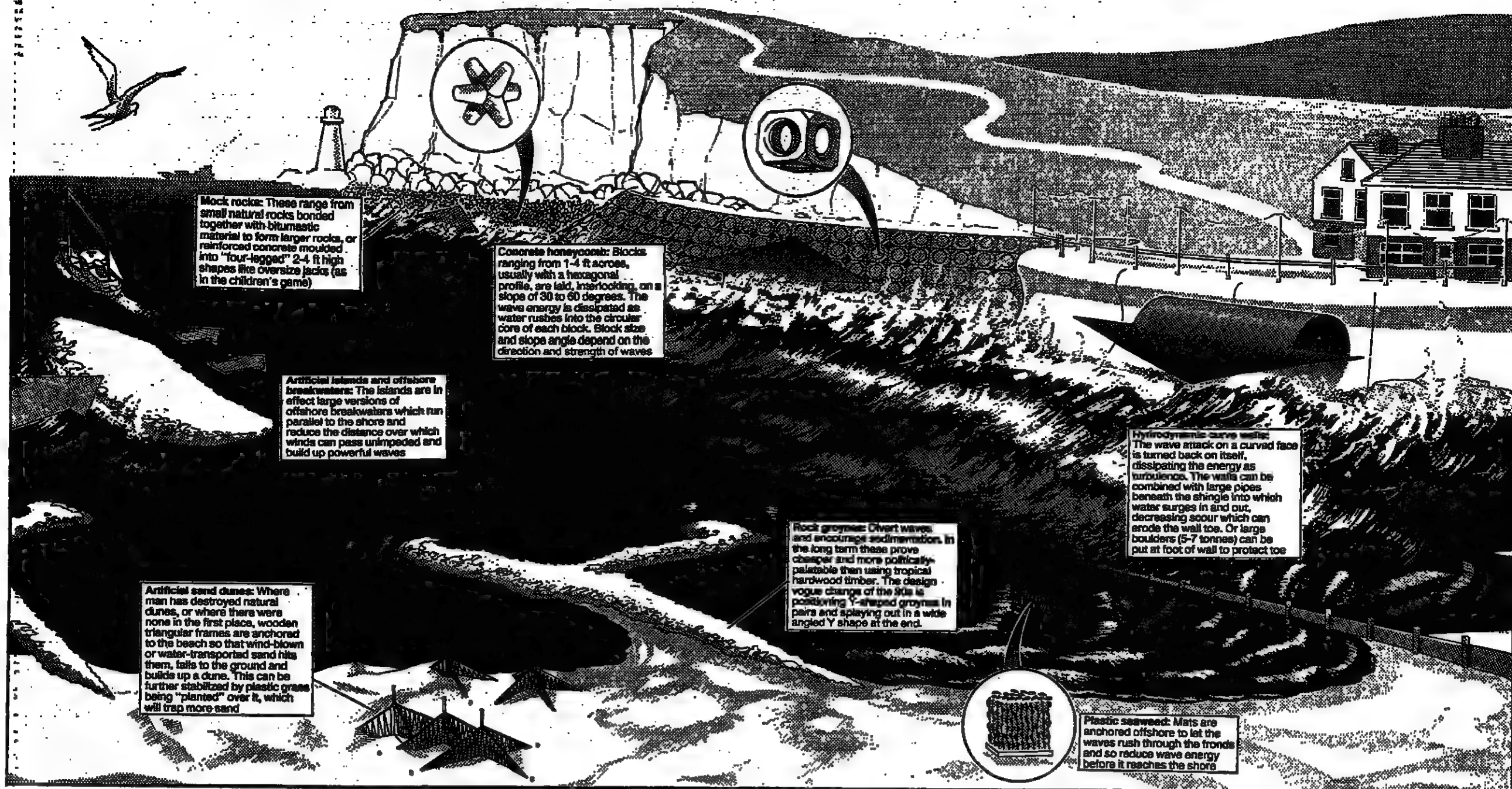
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# Britain's battle of the beaches



The scars from last week's storms will be visible around the coast of Britain for years, testifying to the power of the sea when its immense energy is unleashed. They also illustrate what can be expected when the predicted rise in the sea level occurs after the year 2000 from the effects of global warming.

Too many of Britain's coastal defences rely on the product of Victorian civil engineering: solid, square, reinforced, "walls," old groynes to stabilize the sand and shingle beaches and break up the rolling wave front, and wide dykes, which are beginning to yield to the relentless pounding of the tide and waves.

With carpets still soggy in the north Wales town of Tyn-y-bryn, civil engineers throughout Britain know that similar weaknesses in sea defences elsewhere, combined with increasingly frequent "freak" weather conditions, place hundreds of miles of coastline at risk.

"We have got an enormous stock of old sea walls. I am not saying we should panic unduly, but there is a high level of concern," Dr Alan Brampton, director of the coastal engineering group at the Hydraulics Research Station in Wallingford, Oxfordshire, says.

"At Tyn-y-bryn nobody would have expected such a severe attack. This winter has been so violent it could strike anywhere."

Such extensive damage has not occurred since 1953, when 307 people died as a result of marine flooding, mainly on the east coast of Britain, and 32,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

As each storm or flood has occurred, newspapers have labelled them as "freak floods," "freak winds" or "freak storms," or started reports with "The weather went mad yesterday."

Engineers, their hands tied by disparate funding and shrinking budgets, predict they will be more frequent. A Government pledge of £24 million a year for renewal of coastal defences by 1993 has been derided as a drop in the ocean. Unless vast sums are spent, land, livestock and human lives will remain endangered, the engineers say.

"Sea walls can cost £5,000 for each metre run. So £50 million would buy 10 kilometres of sea

## More frequent storms and rising sea levels threaten our shores.

### Bronwen Jones investigates

wall, and we have more than 10,000 kilometres of coast," Dr Brampton says. "It is not possible with the money we put in to guarantee safety."

The technology used to protect our coast is one of the slowest areas of civil engineering to change, because of the high risks entailed in making an incorrect decision.

Trends in sea defence technology are moving towards ways of fooling nature: with floating mats of plastic seaweed, mock rocks, honeycombed concrete that absorbs the waves' energy, or curves in once-angular walls to make the incoming tide roll back on itself.

But the protection slogan for the Nineties is "softness is strength." Although every coast protection device ever tried could still prove to be the ideal answer for particular geomorphology, the move is towards the "super breakwater" fending off the waves at a distance.

The rectangular profile of old sea walls is out. They met force with force, whereas the strategy now is to divert and dissipate wave and wind energy.

In The Netherlands, vast tracts of land are at or below sea level, and the problems are correspondingly worse. But necessity has also made the Dutch engineers among the best in coastal protection, and adoption of their soft approach in recent years is likely to become common in Britain.

New structures in Britain already tend to follow this approach, but lack of money in many parts of the country means the only "solution" is short term.

In raising wall heights to deal with a rising sea level, engineers are having to reassess 20-year, 50-year and 100-year events as storm frequency increases.

The main problem in coastal protection is disparate funding. The Property Services Agency, British Rail, the Department of Trade and Industry, the National Rivers Authority and local authorities are responsible for different stretches of coastline. In some areas the residents are even responsible for protecting their frontages.

Coastal recession in Britain can be as much as two metres a year in some areas, but this can be balanced by natural or man-assisted land reclamation elsewhere.

Tampering with this continual process of sediment transport and deposition cannot be approached lightly. It is analysed by three-dimensional computer modelling, so that beaches or whole villages are not lost — as happened early this century with Hallsands in Devon.

Computer modelling can simulate water flow speed increases or reduction against new groyne designs by inputting tidal range, average depth, tidal period and the simulation time. If the structure does not slow or deflect the waves enough, a new structure is designed on screen.

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Wales, is to have a gently sloping face to the sea wall — which uses considerably more material — and face it with an asphaltic layer or with a single layer of honeycomb armour.

Hollowed hexagonal tubes or hollowed-out "cubes" with angled corners use up to 50 per cent less concrete than other man-made schemes. They vary from 1 ft to 4 ft across, and hexagonal units have to be laid with one pair of points facing up and down the slope.

Commonly known as "sea-bees", small vitrified clay versions have been used with great success in Australia, and similar schemes with concrete have been used on a harbour in Jersey and on Wirral.

They need tight packing to be effective. The disadvantage of disparate coastal protection is that efficient land retention by one borough could starve schemes in a neighbouring borough to encourage sedimentation of material that was previously eroded and delivered regularly.

An equally strange idea that has been used quite successfully in the North Sea, around oil platforms, is artificial seaweed. This is made in mats of buoyant plastic — the inverse of a plastic door curtain — but it is difficult to anchor in shallower water.

Plastic can also be used in geomembranes to retain submarine slopes, particularly on large groyne structures or artificial islands. They can be combined with natural materials, as in Belgium, where blankets of willow tree branches are tied to polypropylene fabric and weighted down with stones to stop scouring of breakwater foundations.

If sediments are too "loose" to build a groyne above, they are compacted into place by large probes that are held by cranes on barges, and vibrated vertically. Explosives are used for deep compaction, the charge impact causing liquefaction of the sand, which then settles into a more dense, stable structure.

While the restoration of natural beaches, sand dunes and marshes might provide a natural buffer against the sea in some places, engineering of immensely costly sea walls and dykes will be needed if the present boundaries of the British coastline are to be maintained in the face of a 3 ft rise in sea levels, forecast for the year 2050.

Some experts believe that nature should be left to cope in many places, so that money can be diverted to larger, more vulnerable areas where man-made defences are necessary. It may be impractical to think of protecting all areas at present defended against floods. But the plans and choices should be made now.

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## Pen-friendly computer

The day when we jot down shopping lists on pocket-sized computers rather than on scraps of paper has come a little nearer with the arrival of a new, paperback-sized computer that recognizes handwriting and does away with a keyboard in favour of an electronic pen.

Sony, the Japanese electronics manufacturer, plans to market its PalmTop computer from next month. It is not the first company to produce a computer which uses handwriting recognition technology rather than a keyboard — Canon and Tandy brought out versions last year — but the PalmTop is more compact.

"You don't have to read thick manuals or go to training courses to be able to use this machine," Toshi Doi, a Sony director, said yesterday. The company was initially "targeting it at businessmen in their 20s and 30s who need a portable mode of data entry."



The paperback-sized notebook.

Sony's PalmTop can recognize more than 3,300 Chinese characters, Roman letters and Arabic numerals as well as graphics using a system based on "fuzzy logic", a set of reasoning rules that enable computers to process information expressed in vague terms such as

the common expression "very hot". The PalmTop flips open like a laptop computer and instructions are entered with a special pen on to an electronic screen. It is priced at 198,000 yen (£800) and will, at first, only be available in Japan until more software is developed.

The machine — which is eight inches wide, six inches deep, 1.8 inches high and weighs 2.8lb — includes a software system which provides simple word processing, a personal organizer and graphics. Data entered is automatically organized into a personal data base. Additional software for salesmen and the insurance industry is being prepared.

The PalmTop can store 110 A4-size pages. An adaptor allows two-way communication of data through a fax machine. Sony is hoping for monthly production of 1,000 and expects to sell a total of 300,000 in three years.

Joe Joseph, Tokyo

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Steam-powered cars could help to solve the world's fuel and pollution problems. Matthew May reports



Full-steam ahead: Peter Pellandine in his Pelland Steamer — some people believe he is a humorous eccentric. "They think of the 19th century and ask where the man with the shovel sits"

# Forward to age of steam

The idea of a 100-mph car that runs on steam is not one that springs readily to mind. But industrial designer and engineer Peter Pellandine says his newly developed vehicle shows how steam power, coupled with modern electronics, offers a solution to the world's environmental and fuel problems.

Mr Pellandine has designed the Pelland Steamer, a two-seater vehicle which looks like a modern petrol-driven sports car. Its power source is steam, heated by the same oil used in oil-fired central heating systems. The oil is pumped through a nozzle and the resulting spray ignited by a single spark plug. This converts water into steam, which is then piped to a three-cylinder engine where energy is transmitted to the crankshaft via double acting pistons.

An electronic system is used to control the steam quality and provide the driver with information on engine performance.

The car can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in eight seconds, has a top speed of more than 100 mph and can travel 30 miles on a gallon of home heating oil.

Eventually, Mr Pellandine hopes to break the world record for reciprocating steam power by

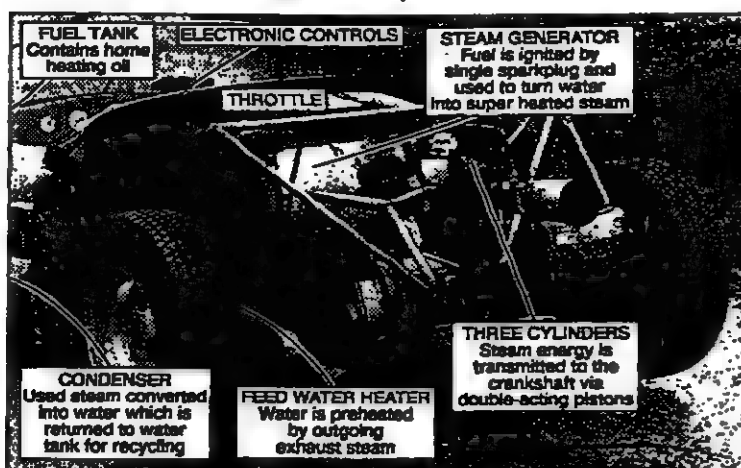
**'Steam-powered vehicles need no longer be like the dirty and noisy railway engines of the past; this vehicle is cleaner and quieter than a modern car'**

improving the vehicle's performance to produce a top speed of 135 mph. The current record of 128 mph was established in 1906.

Mr Pellandine became interested in the idea of steam power in 1974 when the South Australian government commissioned him to construct a prototype steam vehicle.

The Australians wanted to reduce motor vehicle pollution in Adelaide which, with hills on one side and sea on the other, suffers from smog problems in the same way as Los Angeles.

The prototype was built, but work



on the project was halted when government funds ran out. In 1978, Mr Pellandine returned to Britain and began building a second version, attracting more than £60,000 in sponsorship.

The project has been delayed for much of the past two years because of lack of money. But Mr Pellandine recently began work on it again with modest support from the Mobil oil company and Danfoss, a Danish supplier of central heating equipment.

Mr Pellandine says his car offers a striking demonstration of the poten-

where everything gets dirty."

Mr Pellandine says steam's constant pressure is another advantage. This provides smooth and virtually noiseless operation in contrast to the noise and vibration of petrol-driven engines.

The steam engine's major potential, he believes, is with vehicles such as buses and taxis which make numerous interrupted journeys in the inner cities. The engine's lack of gearbox, friction clutch, carburettor and timing mechanism would reduce servicing and renewal of parts. "Cleaner, quieter automatic steam-powered taxis would be ideal," Mr Pellandine says.

Mr Pellandine says some people dismiss his project as a humorous eccentricity. "It's the giggle factor. They think of the 19th century and ask where the man with the shovel sits."

He says his Pelland Steamer, which will be shown this weekend at the sports and kit car show at Bingley Hall in Stafford, can be unreliable. But he is convinced that with serious funding steam power could become a reliable alternative for vehicles by the end of the decade.

## SCIENCE REPORT

## Of mice, men and research

Here is a recipe to make your very own custom-built mouse, carrying whatever genetic traits you want. First, pick a gene, modify to taste, and introduce the new-mutant version into an embryonic mouse cell.

Once inside the cell, the mutant gene will, with luck, find and displace the equivalent native gene. Then, inject the modified mouse cell into a mouse embryo, and bring to term inside a female mouse. The result is a "transformed" mouse that can pass the new gene on to later generations.

Cross with other transformed mice, and you will soon have a unique, breed of mouse carrying your custom mutation.

Researchers have used this technique to make several new strains of mouse, opening the way to the study of how diseases, such as cancer, operate in living animals. The lessons learnt along the way will give researchers an insight into human diseases.

It sounds easy, except that the technique runs into a worrying puzzle which researchers are anxious to solve. The part of the recipe in which a modified gene displaces a gene inside an embryonic mouse cell is called "gene targeting", but nobody knows how the introduced gene locates its "double" among the thousands of other genes in the mouse cell.

Many genes occur in several copies in a single cell. One might think that the more copies of the target gene there are, the better the chances of an introduced gene locating one of them. If so, then gene targeting would be the "rate limiting" step. Improve gene targeting and one could make more mice, more easily. A nice thought, but misplaced, as Hui Zheng and John H. Wilson, of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, show in tomorrow's issue of *Nature*. The two

researchers have been using two kinds of cell for genetic target practice. They are identical, except that one has two copies of a particular target gene per cell, and the other has 500.

If the number of copies of the target gene were rate limiting, the researchers would be 400 times as successful with the second cell type as the first, in the sense that an introduced gene corresponding with an equivalent, native target gene would have a better chance of displacing one, were there more of them to aim at.

As it turns out, though, the number of target sequences has no influence at all on the success of gene targeting. So it cannot be the rate-limiting step of the mouse recipe.

To make more mice, researchers must look elsewhere in the recipe to find the rate-limiting step.

Why should the number of targets make no difference? Consider a secret agent arriving in a strange town for an appointment with a contact. The more contacts in the town, the better his chances of meeting one. But if he knows the time and place of the rendezvous beforehand, he can go straight there. Even better, his contact could meet him at the station on his arrival.

As with our secret agent, there is increasing evidence that introduced genes are not left to flounder: cells have some kind of machinery for "sampling" incoming genes and directing them where necessary, irrespective of how many targets there are.

It seems genes are not static entities like a row of village shops on a Sunday morning. In the genetic village, every day is market day.

Henry Gee

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY Continued on page 42

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

# Babies are no dummies

Pearce Wright

looks at new

research which

challenges the

established view

on the degree of

intelligence in

newborn babies

When a baby a few weeks old drops a toy out of sight, does the toy no longer exist for the infant? An answer to this question, which has intrigued psychologists for decades, has come from scientists working at the frontiers of research on early childhood development.

The conclusion is among a number of discoveries that are challenging established views on the growth of intelligence from birth to adolescence.

The revelations undermine many of the views on which the nurturing of infants, the curricula for primary and secondary school education and the provisions for handicapped children are based.

An outline of the research from which this new perspective is evolving is published today in *Psychologist*, the periodical of the British Psychological Society.

Dr Alyson Davis, of the department of child development and primary education at the Institute of Education, London University, says the greatest challenge to received wisdom comes from studies showing that, contrary to belief, babies are born with a high degree of intelligence.

A demonstration that babies are born with more than a modicum of intellect, and are not just a bundle of reflexes waiting to be fed, is emerging from a number of international investigations.

A leader among the researchers in the United Kingdom, Dr Alan Slater, of Exeter University, says: "Newborn babies not only see and focus better than is generally recognized, they also begin rapidly

to make sense of what they see.

"All the senses of a baby are functioning at birth, though not all with the same acuity as the adult. But babies can learn about the world from the moment they are born. The new infant recognizes its mother and others by sight, sound and smell. The evidence also points to a lot of learning in the womb."

"While initial understanding of the world may be limited, and concentrated on the figures and objects the baby sees, you don't have to teach babies to become humans," Dr Slater says.

He maintains that babies are predisposed to communicate from birth. "From the start babies are



Logic: an eight-month old baby is presented with an out-of-reach toy on a cloth. Instead of grabbing for the toy, she pulls the cloth towards her

attracted to the human voice more than any other sounds, and start forming attachments not just to the mother, but to the father, brothers and sisters."

Dr Peter Willatts, of Dundee University, Scotland, whose experiments answered the out-of-sight question, says: "Infants are making sense of the world within three months of birth."

His research with babies aged five to 12 months shows that infants can carry out a task by planning at a very early age, rather than by trial and error, or just grabbing at things around them.

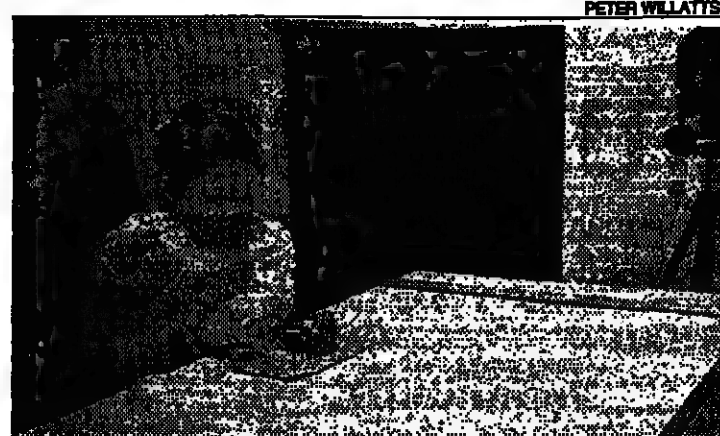
Some of these results will appear soon in a volume of papers entitled *Infant Behaviour and*

*Development*, by Dr Slater and other leaders in the field. Dr Slater says researchers have become more adept at uncovering infants' early abilities, leading to the recognition of the newborn baby as a "competent infant".

There has been a fresh look at one of the most established fields of research, the ability to recognize and memorize faces, which spans development from infancy to adulthood.

Professor Hadyn Ellis, of the University College of Wales, Cardiff, has found that the ability to recognize faces deteriorates temporarily at about the age of 12.

Since this is the age of puberty, he attributes the effect to physio-



logical causes. There are also more elaborate theories that suggest that this is the age at which the brain matures into adulthood, and the right hemisphere of the brain assumes its superiority for the job of recognizing and memorizing faces.

The advance in monitoring the ability to recognize faces comes from methods devised by Dr David Farrer and Dr Phil Benson, of St Andrews University, Scotland, who made subtle changes to facial portraits using a computer.

Five university groups in Britain are exploring changes in the skills of children aged between three and 16 to recognize faces.

The new-born baby can see a

face with about the same degree of acuity as the adult cat - an out-of-focus image - according to the researchers. As with the cat, movement and change are the stimuli to attract attention.

The child sees with the same clarity as the adult at about six months, according to Professor Ellis's team, and at 10 to 15 minutes after birth babies are attracted by an animated face rather than a blank head shape or one with scrambled features.

An experiment at Glasgow University by Dr Ian Bushnell and colleagues indicates that at two days babies can discriminate their mother's face from that of a stranger matched for similarity.

Professor Ellis says: "It is necessary to explain the intriguing fact that not only do babies enter the world ready to look at faces, but that they rapidly learn to make between them that would tax all but the most sophisticated computer systems for image processing."

The transformation of research has come through the use of computers and electronic technology to provide a method of constructing new tests during the course of an experiment, instead of taking the results of a one-off test back to the laboratory for analysis before trying another.

In devising the out-of-sight experiment, Dr Willatts used an infra-red television system to film the behaviour of infants after the light was switched off in a room.

But it is the implications of the early development of intelligence that attracts his attention. Dr Willatts believes the new findings contradict the ideas, particularly of the late Professor Jean Piaget, on which the present approach to education from pre-school onwards is based.

Children may be at risk far earlier than previously thought of being hampered in achieving their intellectual potential, and Dr Willatts believes that further study is required of children who have difficulty in exploiting their innate intelligence.

He suggests, for example that an individual with a short and limited working memory would be at a disadvantage in early childhood under the current methods of encouraging development.

## Moscow wired

The McDonald's fast food store which opened in Moscow recently was joined this week by a branch of the US personal computer franchise, Computerland. The store, which is the first to sell Western computers in the Soviet Union, will accept only hard currency and expects a turnover of \$5 million this year. It is, however, prevented from selling the more advanced personal computers, such as those based on the 386 chip, by the Paris-based Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, which controls the export of advanced Western technology to the USSR.

## Foetal study

A technique for monitoring the fetal heart during delivery is no more effective than a stethoscope and could increase the risk of cerebral palsy in premature infants, according to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Electronic monitoring was believed to provide for quicker detection of oxygen deprivation but the study, which compared 93 prematurely born children who had been electronically monitored with 96 whose heart rates were monitored only with a stethoscope, found that the electronic version was no better, and, in some cases, worse. Cerebral palsy was diagnosed in 20 per cent of the children in the electronic group compared with 8 per cent of those children monitored with a stethoscope.

## Rocket launch

Arianespace, the European space consortium, has announced a new contract to launch two satellites despite the explosion last month of an Ariane rocket shortly after take off with two Japanese satellites on board. Arianespace, which grounded its vehicles pending investigation, controls more than 50

per cent of the market for commercial launches. The new contract, with Hughes Communications, means Arianespace is contracted to launch 34 satellites.

## Light and fluffy

Scientists have developed a fluffy substance that contains so little solid matter it is almost invisible but can support fairly heavy weights. The material, dubbed aerogel, consists of linked microscopic fibres of silica and has been developed at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. In its lightest form it has a density equivalent to a teaspoon of water dispersed in the volume of more than a gallon.

## Flying high

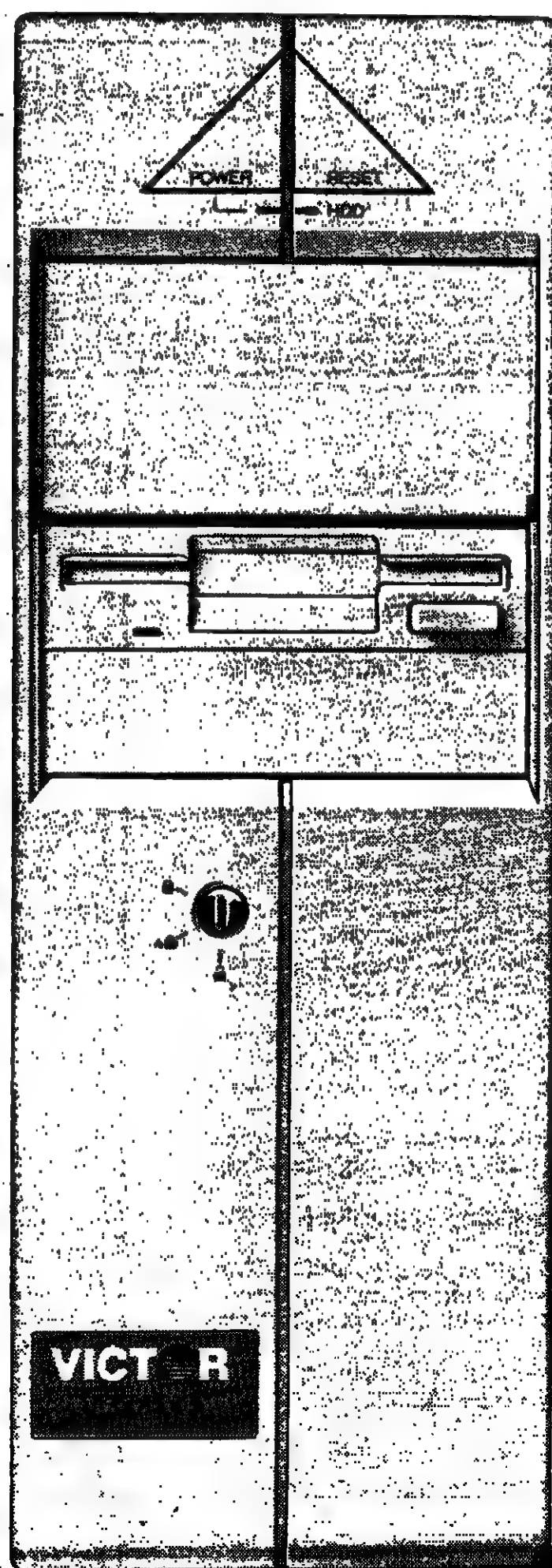
The bald eagle, the official symbol of the US, has made a sufficient comeback there for American officials to consider removing it from the list of endangered species and reclassify it as a threatened species. The decision is seen as a victory for wildlife activists and government officials who have spent 20 years and \$15 million helping the numbers of bald eagle recover.

## Quality image

Generating moving colour video images from computers still strains the capacity of the fastest personal computers. Even a still colour picture can require the storage of as many as 30 million characters of information to provide a reasonable resolution. Now a Silicon Valley company, C Cubed Microsystems, says it has developed a processor that can store pictures in one-twentieth of the storage capacity currently needed and can store a standard size colour photograph in less than a second or produce television quality video pictures. It is likely to be used in video-phones and desktop video editing units and could reduce the price of colour copiers and digital cameras.

Matthew May

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## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

What turns man's best friend into a danger to humans? Nick Nuttall reports on a study offering some answers

# Savage dogs or just bad owners?

When a dog attacks and kills, who should be blamed? According to Dr Bruce Fogle, a London vet and international veterinary college lecturer on animal behaviour, the one and only scientifically sound survey ever done holds some crucial clues.

During a 12-month period in which 20 human deaths were caused by dogs, researchers in the United States found that most were caused by the so-called defence breeds.

These include the notorious American Pit Bull Terrier, the Rottweiler, the Doberman and the German Shepherd dog. Taken on their own, the figures appear a powerful indictment of such dogs, luring the casual observer to embrace notions of natural evil in certain breeds.

Yet the researchers also examined the background of the dogs' owners and here, claims Dr Fogle, a more revealing picture emerges. All the animals were kept by men between the ages of 18 and 25 and half of these had prison records. Forty per cent of these owners had committed violent crimes and half the dogs that carried out the attacks showed scars and other signs of being cruelly treated.

Indeed, says Dr Fogle, the researchers found that the Rottweiler is no less likely to bite than any other defence breed. "The evidence is that they are less likely to bite than a West Highland Terrier, a Yorkshire Terrier or a Jack Russell. The difference is that the crushing power of a Rottweiler is much greater," explains the vet, who calculates the force of one of these dogs at more than 400 pounds per square inch.

The study strongly suggests that dogs, unlike say cats or other pets, are not creatures which exist in isolation of man and his behaviour. Within man's power is the ability to mould, wittingly or unwittingly, his "best friend" into a biological time bomb or a powerful companion and ally.

Clearly, human violence is likely to beget violence in a dog. But many



Fear on the street: passers-by give a wide berth to Rottweilers. But why are such breeds aggressive to humans?

caring owners have found that even the friendliest ball of fluff can grow into a bullying hound or an uncontrollable monster.

Dr Fogle believes that at the heart of these problems, which are likely to intensify as the ownership of specially-bred guard dogs become more widespread, is the near-mythical relationship between man and dog.

At the core of this is the fact that, superficially, dogs appear to behave

like ourselves. Dr Fogle, who has brought together some of the best available research in his book, *The Dog's Mind*, says that both life forms relish activities such as bodily contact, mock aggression, play and sociability.

Yet, despite all this apparent commonality, a dog remains an animal with a genetic programme and behaviour all its own. Dogs may appear to be acting with humanistic traits, artificially am-

plified by selective breeding, but inside their brains is a unique mind that too few owners fail, or even want, to understand.

For example, pets that jump up and "kiss" their master or mistress on his or her arrival home can be seen as simply loving children eager for affection. Yet, in reality, at least part of the behaviour is a throwback to the wild when a bitch would regurgitate food to her litter of puppies.

This misinterpretation of the dog's mind and the endowment of it with human-like qualities permeates the relationship. But it is in the complex area of aggression that the flaws can backfire, leading to violence towards humans and sometimes the necessary destruction of a pet for safety reasons.

Dr Fogle's view is that one in five dogs brought to a vet for aggression problems has so-called dominance aggression, a condition that is both inherited and learnt.

It commonly affects pure-bred dogs, including Springer Spaniels, Rottweilers, Dobermans and Lhasa Apso. At its root can be a belief by the dog that the owner is weak. This perceived weakness can operate at a highly subtle level.

"If my dog comes over and asks to be stroked, and I stroke her, I am telling her that I obey her commands," argues Dr Fogle. Dogs with this condition rarely attack small children or submissive people. The animal, in its mind, regards only more forceful individuals as a threat to its social position.

Democracy, prized by people, is "a misplaced ideology in the canine world," argues Dr Fogle. Fear and aggression are the most common cause of dogs biting children and can often be traced back to overprotection of the animal.

Instead of being exposed to a barrage of stimuli, such as postmen, dustmen, cats, crowds, lifts, some caring owners unwittingly deprive a pup of vital sensory stimulation. Children then become strange species complete with unfamiliar smells who are often seen as competitors for food, attention and warmth.

It can be treated and unlearned, but tragically in some breeds it can be inherited. This is a more serious problem if it occurs in a big defence breed of dog such as the German Shepherd or, in Britain particularly, the now notorious Rottweiler.

Dr Fogle's *The Dog's Mind* by Dr Bruce Fogle is published by Pelham Books at £14.99.

Board is in no doubt about the dynamic effect the new communication system is already having in marketing Northern Ireland itself.

British Telecom's transfer of much of the London directory inquiry service to Portadown, Armagh, has created 200 new jobs; British Airways is switching a large part of its reservation and ticketing operations to Belfast with a second airline reported to be following suit, and the Belfast passport office is being enlarged to serve United Kingdom applicants as a whole.

Bob Rodwell

## World leaders in phone links

already operating and the testing of a newly laid Belfast-Dublin optical spur began this week. British Telecom officials say that from next month, Northern Ireland will - with what is in effect a massive field trial for BT's integrated services digital network - be between two and five years ahead of mainland Britain in its telecommunications services.

Michael Gordon, Ulster-born development director of the United States-owned BIS software group, speaks of Northern Ireland having an opportunity for "a great leap forward" and of taking a world lead. An intense debate has now begun in Ulster about how the Star network can best be exploited. There is concern that the services must be priced reasonably if the

virtues of the new telecommunications system are to be widely taken up.

David Hutchinson, technical director of STC, which has a large plant on the edge of Belfast, believes up to 60,000 sites in Britain would use video-conferencing systems, for example, if only there were changes in prices by British Telecom. Ulster's Industrial Development

## JOBScene

## A high price for training

Why free in-the-job instruction could be an expensive handicap

After the outcome of a legal battle, companies that train staff in information technology may now introduce contracts forcing employees to repay the cost of training should they resign within a specified period.

The long-awaited appeal by Philip Hubble, a former employee of Electronic Data Systems (EDS), against a judgment requiring him to repay £4,500 in training costs, was abandoned at the last moment. The case, which lasted four years, centred on the issue of a promissory note that trainees sign when joining EDS. Under this, staff must pay a fixed sum if they leave EDS within three years.

It had been seen as a test case by the unions, EDS and other employers training information technology staff. At issue was the loss of training investment the company suffers if an employee resigns before pay-back period on the one hand, and the employee's right to earn a living without being "unreasonably fettered" on the other.

The cases were backed by the Manufacturing Science and Finance (MSF) union because, according to an official, it is "vehemently opposed" to binding training contracts.

At a pre-trial settlement at the end of last month, it was agreed on behalf of Mr Hubble, and three other former EDS employees, to pay 90 per cent of EDS's legal costs. Mr Hubble has also agreed to pay the full £4,500. It was agreed that the remaining three former employees would each pay half that figure.

The idea of training contracts is unusual in the IT industry, although training is expensive and companies suffer from a rapid turnover of staff. Many firms argue that the high level of poaching deters them from training. Some see contracts as a way to ensure a return on their invest-

ment. Only one other company, ROCC Services, is known to require IT staff to sign a contract but it maintains it is unlikely to ask employees to repay the training costs should they leave.

Mike Aldrich, chief executive of ROCC, says: "I think these contracts ought to be mandatory. The industry cannot go on the way it is. Many of my colleagues say they are going to do it."

The chairman of the Computing Services Association's personnel managers group said last year that many companies were awaiting the outcome of the case to clarify the situation.

One factor is that trainee graduates, who are paid about £11,000 by IT companies, could, with such a training contract, be placed in a position where they lose the option to resign over factors such as low salary increases or the overtime they are expected to work, unless they can afford to lose almost half a year's salary.

Staff and the unions have a surprising ally: the computer manufacturers, which remain opposed to training contracts and are the largest employers of IT staff.

"I am emphatically against these agreements," says Peter Forbes, ICL's graduate-recruitment manager. "The boot is so definitely on the graduate's foot already that putting penalties on recruitment might be seen as a deterrent to joining a firm. The most effective contract is one both parties enter freely."

Staff required to sign such contracts are advised to seek legal advice. Larry Brooks, MSF national IT officer, says: "We are opposed to such practices and will continue to give our members legal support to fight these cases."

Other companies have tackled the problem differently, adopting inducements such as bonus payments if staff stay for a specified period.

Leslie Tilley

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The BGS now seeks an experienced Manager for its Information Systems Group to spearhead the information technology developments which will be necessary to create a corporate system from its individual component parts. BGS will shortly be awarding a contract for a major information systems consultancy, and one of the first tasks for the new Manager will be to liaise closely with the consultants in order to ensure the smoothest evolution from strategy to implementation. Provision exists for the recruitment of additional specialist staff to the current Information Systems Group.

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URGENT:







Club play  
reform of  
ion system

# Snowy Bondlair can regain winning thread

**By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)**

Snowy Bondlair, with Pat Verling in the saddle, appeals as a sound bet to win the Pragnel Trophy at Stratford today and he is my nap.

Last season the same combination won five similar handicaps over two miles and that after Snowy Bondlair had not won a race for five years.

The handicapper was obviously going to make life more difficult for him this time but the way that he performed on his belated seasonal debut at Kempton 12 days ago hinted that he was ready to take up the challenge.

On that occasion, again ridden by Verling, he chased The A Train all the way to the line before going down by a length to an in-form horse, who was on a trouble having already scored at Kempton and Sandown.

What I particularly like about Snowy Bondlair is the fact that he has had only one race at a stage of the season when freshness can give a horse a crucial advantage, especially in a tight handicap like today's.

On the day when the John and Nigel Thorne Memorial Cup is run, there would be no more appropriate winner of the Alveston Novices' Chase than Spartan Missile's half-brother, John's Birthday who was, as his name suggests, foaled on the same date on which that great Coxington John Thorne was born.

In this instance, though, sentimentality may well have to play second fiddle because Spartan Still boasts the better form.

Jenny Pitman's fine season can continue on a victorious note with De Be Brief in the EDF Novices' Hurdle Qualifier. But for making an appalling mistake at Ascot, where he was eventually pulled up, he might well be unbeaten this season. He had looked a most promising individual when winning his other races at Towcester and Chesham.

# Crank bows out after first success of season

Reg Crank became the latest jockey to announce his retirement after being Salty's Dove home a six-length winner of the Hylwell Selling Furlong at Bangor yesterday.

Crank, aged 35, is following Paul Tuckwell's lead, who has also bowed out on winning notes in recent weeks. He has had only a handful of rides this season and Salty's Dove was his first winner of the campaign.

His first winner was Sovereign's Endeavour on the Flat at Carlisle when I was a 15-year-old. Crank recalled, "I've had about 250 winners in all and the highlights were two Chesham winners, Cross Master and Raising Wind."



Reg Crank finished riding career with Bangor winner

**SOUTHWELL**

**Selections**  
By Mandarin

2.10 Ashwaq, 2.40 Herde, 3.10 Jovial Kate, 3.40 Magic Ann, 4.10 Love Legend, 4.40 Masked Ball.

Going: standard  
Drops: 8-11, few numbers best

**2.10 TUXFORD MAIDEN STAKES (2,616; 1m) (15 runners)**

1-4-10-11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-1226-1227-1228-1229-1230-1231-1232-1233-1234-1235-1236-1237-1238-1239-1240-1241-1242-1243-1244-1245-1246-1247-1248-1249-1250-1251-1252-1253-1254-1255-1256-1257-1258-1259-1260-1261-1262-1263-1264-1265-1266-1267-1268-1269-1270-1271-1272-1273-1274-1275-1276-1277-1278-1279-1280-1281-1282-1283-1284-1285-1286-1287-1288-1289-1290-1291-1292-1293-1294-1295-1296-1297-1298-1299-1300-1301-1302-1303-1304-1305-1306-1307-1308-1309-1310-1311-1312-1313-1314-1315-1316-1317-1318-1319-1320-1321-1322-1323-1324-1325-1326-1327-1328-1329-1330-1331-1332-1333-1334-1335-1336-1337-1338-1339-1340-1341-1342-1343-1344-1345-1346-1347-1348-1349-1350-1351-1352-1353-1354-1355-1356-1357-1358-1359-1360-1361-1362-1363-1364-1365-1366-1367-1368-1369-1370-1371-1372-1373-1374-1375-1376-1377-1378-1379-1380-1381-1382-1383-1384-1385-1386-1387-1388-1389-1390-1391-1392-1393-1394-1395-1396-1397-1398-1399-1400-1401-1402-1403-1404-1405-1406-1407-1408-1409-1410-1411-1412-1413-1414-1415-1416-1417-1418-1419-1420-1421-1422-1423-1424-1425-1426-1427-1428-1429-1430-1431-1432-1433-1434-1435-1436-1437-1438-1439-1440-1441-1442-1443-1444-1445-1446-1447-1448-1449-1450-1451-1452-1453-1454-1455-1456-1457-1458-1459-1460-1461-1462-1463-1464-1465-1466-1467-1468-1469-1470-1471-1472-1473-1474-1475-1476-1477-1478-1479-1480-1481-1482-1483-1484-1485-1486-1487-1488-1489-1490-1491-1492-1493-1494-1495-1496-1497-1498-1499-1500-1501-1502-1503-1504-1505-1506-1507-1508-1509-1510-1511-1512-1513-1514-1515-1516-1517-1518-1519-1520-1521-1522-1523-1524-1525-1526-1527-1528-1529-1530-1531-1532-1533-1534-1535-1536-1537-1538-1539-1540-1541-1542-1543-1544-1545-1546-1547-1548-1549-1550-1551-1552-1553-1554-1555-1556-1557-1558-1559-1560-1561-1562-1563-1564-1565-1566-1567-1568-1569-1570-1571-1572-1573-1574-1575-1576-1577-1578-1579-1580-1581-1582-1583-1584-1585-1586-1587-1588-1589-1590-1591-1592-1593-1594-1595-1596-1597-1598-1599-1600-1601-1602-1603-1604-1605-1606-1607-1608-1609-1610-1611-1612-1613-1614-1615-1616-1617-1618-1619-1620-1621-1622-1623-1624-1625-1626-1627-1628-1629-1630-1631-1632-1633-1634-1635-1636-1637-1638-1639-1640-1641-1642-1643-1644-1645-1646-1647-1648-1649-1650-1651-1652-1653-1654-1655-1656-1657-1658-1659-1660-1661-1662-1663-1664-1665-1666-1667-1668-1669-1670-1671-1672-1673-1674-1675-1676-1677-1678-1679-1680-1681-1682-1683-1684-1685-1686-1687-1688-1689-1690-1691-1692-1693-1694-1695-1696-1697-1698-1699-1700-1701-1702-1703-1704-1705-1706-1707-1708-1709-1710-1711-1712-1713-1714-1715-1716-1717-1718-1719-1720-1721-1722-1723-1724-1725-1726-1727-1728-1729-1730-1731-1732-1733-1734-1735-1736-1737-1738-1739-1740-1741-1742-1743-1744-1745-1746-1747-1748-1749-1750-1751-1752-1753-1754-1755-1756-1757-1758-1759-1760-1761-1762-1763-1764-1765-1766-1767-1768-1769-1770-1771-1772-1773-1774-1775-1776-1777-1778-1779-1780-1781-1782-1783-1784-1785-1786-1787-1788-1789-1790-1791-1792-1793-1794-1795-1796-1797-1798-1799-1800-1801-1802-1803-1804-1805-1806-1807-1808-1809-1810-1811-1812-1813-1814-1815-1816-1817-1818-1819-1820-1821-1822-1823-1824-1825-1826-1827-1828-1829-1830-1831-1832-1833-1834-1835-1836-1837-1838-1839-1840-1841-1842-1843-1844-1845-1846-1847-1848-1849-1850-1851-1852-1853-1854-1855-1856-1857-1858-1859-1860-1861-1862-1863-1864-1865-1866-1867-1868-1869-1870-1871-1872-1873-1874-1875-1876-1877-1878-1879-1880-1881-1882-1883-1884-1885-1886-1887-1888-1889-1890-1891-1892-1893-1894-1895-1896-1897-1898-1899-1900-1901-1902-1903-1904-1905-1906-1907-1908-1909-1910-1911-1912-1913-1914-1915-1916-1917-1918-1919-1920-1921-1922-1923-1924-1925-1926-1927-1928-1929-1930-1931-1932-1933-1934-1935-1936-1937-1938-1939-1940-1941-1942-1943-1944-1945-1946-1947-1948-1949-1950-1951-1952-1953-1954-1955-1956-1957-1958-1959-1960-1961-1962-1963-1964-1965-1966-1967-1968-1969-1970-1971-1972-1973-1974-1975-1976-1977-1978-1979-1980-1981-1982-1983-1984-1985-1986-1987-1988-1989-1990-1991-1992-1993-1994-1995-1996-1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006-2007-2008-2009-2010-2011-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019-2020-2021-2022-2023-2024-2025-2026-2027-2028-2029-2030-2031-2032-2033-2034-2035-2036-2037-2038-2039-2040-2041-2042-2043-2044-2045-2046-2047-2048-2049-2050-2051-2052-2053-2054-2055-2056-2057-2058-2059-2060-2061-2062-2063-2064-2065-2066-2067-2068-2069-2070-2071-2072-2073-2074-2075-2076-2077-2078-2079-2080-2081-2082-2083-2084-2085-2086-2087-2088-2089-2090-2091-2092-2093-2094-2095-2096-2097-2098-2099-2100-2101-2102-2103-2104-2105-2106-2107-2108-2109-2110-2111-2112-2113-2114-2115-2116-2117-2118-2119-2120-2121-2122-2123-2124-2125-2126-2127-2128-2129-2130-2131-2132-2133-2134-2135-2136-2137-2138-2139-2140-2141-2142-2143-2144-2145-2146-2147-2148-2149-2150-2151-2152-2153-2154-2155-2156-2157-2158-2159-2160-2161-2162-2163-2164-2165-2166-2167-2168-2169-2170-2171-2172-2173-2174-2175-2176-2177-2178-2179-2180-2181-2182-2183-2184-2185-2186-2187-2188-2189-2190-2191-2192-2193-2194-2195-2196-2197-2198-2199-2200-2201-2202-2203-2204-2205-2206-2207-2208-2209-2210-2211-2212-2213-2214-2215-2216-2217-2218-2219-2220-2221-2222-2223-2224-2225-2226-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318-2319-2320-2321-2322-2323-2324-2325-2326-2327-2328-2329-2330-2331-2332-2333-2334-2335-2336-2337-2338-2339-2340-2341-2342-2343-2344-2345-2346-2347-2348-2349-2350-2351-2352-2353-2354-2355-2356-2357-2358-2359-2360-2361-2362-2363-2364-2365-2366-2367-2368-2369-2370-2371-2372-2373-2374-2375-2376-2377-2378-2379-2380-2381-2382-2383-2384-2385-2386-2387-2388-2389-2390-2391-2392-2393-2394-2395-2396-2397-2398-2399-2400-2401-2402-2403-2404-2405-2406-2407-2408-2409-2410-2411-2412-2413-2414-2415-2416-2417-2418-2419-2420-2421-2422-2423-2424-2425-2426-2427-2428-2429-2430-2431-2432-2433-2434-2435-2436-2437-2438-2439-2440-2441-2442-2443-2444-2445-2446-2447-2448-2449-2450-2451-2452-2453-2454-2455-2456-2457-2458-2459-2460-2461-2462-2463-2464-2465-2466-2467-2468-2469-2470-2471-2472-2473-2474-2475-2476-2477-2478-2479-24











# England's spectacular slump

From Alan Lee  
Cricket Correspondent  
Georgetown, Guyana

The disciplines which have served England so well in one-day cricket during recent years temporarily deserted them at Bourda yesterday. In perfect conditions, and before an expectant capacity crowd, they wasted a commanding start and batted totally inadequately in the game they had to win to keep this five-match series alive.

A total of 188 for eight, off a restricted ration of 48 overs, reflected a series of careless shots for which they paid dearly. West Indies were still without Greenidge, resting his vulnerable back with Saturday's more consequential second Test match in mind, but in his absence Desmond Haynes and Carlisle Best cheerfully set about putting England's efforts in perspective with a century opening stand.

England's total was all the more disappointing because Gooch and Larkins had batted with authority which suggested 250 was within range. On a pitch of even bounce and no great pace, it should have been, especially with Marshall missing from the opposition and Ambrose not thought quite ready to return.

What had started out as a batting exhibition went terminally wrong in the middle third of the innings when, against bowling which did no more than adhere to the basics, England lost five wickets for 41 runs. Some were sacrificed in the way they often are in this form of cricket but, after all their good groundwork in Jamaica, it was no better than slapdash.

The crowd, 18,000 inside the ground and many more perched on rooftops, in trees or patrolling the streets outside, seemed bemused. This was the first cricket in Georgetown this season to survive the weather and they had been promised a resurgent England side and a high-scoring spectacular. They saw nothing of the kind.

They had also been promised a recalcitrant Viv Richards and he, at least, did not let them down. Richards outraged the mixed race and multi-cultural Guyanese by referring to his West Indian team as being of African descent in an Antigua newspaper. Comments like this are seen as racist in this country and on Tuesday Richards had issued an apology. Yesterday,



Wicketkeeper turns spectator: Dujon watches Capel bowled

his 38th birthday, he set out to charm the vociferous sections of the packed stands, doffing his cap and bowing to them at every opportunity. Showmanship was what this game needed, for, once the England openers had gone, the champagne was fast turning to flat lemonade. Gooch, perhaps shedding no tears over being put in, was far more forthright than his modern England mode usually allows, while Larkins dealt with a generous leg-side diet with great relish as England made a marvellous start.

Walsh was withdrawn after a fourth over in which Larkins pulled and then whipped him to the square-leg boundary, but when Baptiste replaced him Gooch played two real strokes in a single over.

Moseley dropped short and Larkins, with a short arm pull of startling force, landed the ball on the roof of the little, two-tier stand at square leg. Then Gooch, not to be outdone, leant forward to banish Baptiste to the street boundary. But with 71 on the board from 16 overs and estimates of the final total becoming fanciful, Gooch was bowled off his pads by Moseley as he tried to force him to leg, a fatefully familiar end to an innings of real promise.

The loss of his captain seemed to inhibit Larkins and quickly England began to lose their way. Moseley may look innocuous alongside his more

hostile colleagues but he does the simple things deceptively well and Larkins, having driven more than once at him, finally made frustrated contact and sliced a catch to cover.

Richards would customarily have himself bowled hereabouts but instead he gave the ball to the team's one Guyanese, Hooper. If this was another sop to the locals, it was a mighty effective one as, in a full quota of overs, Hooper demonstrated that off spin is an insoluble mystery to the modern English batsmen. Almost as one they chose to counter it by thrusting their front pad forward and sweeping; almost as one, they were clumsily ineffectual.

Hooper's one wicket came when Capel tried astirly to drive him and was bowled off the inside edge. By then, though, Smith had been a victim of his own agitation and Walsh, the beneficiary, had then removed Stewart second ball. This was one ball more than he had managed to survive in the previous match last Saturday and his place in the middle order must be in jeopardy even if his one serious rival, Bailey, has gone too long without match practice.

Keeping England on a tight rein, Richards recalled Bishop to claim the vital remaining wicket of Lamb, caught behind in trying to cut but, just as the innings looked ready to subside without a fight, Rus-

sell organized some late resistance.

Russell, defying convention in the impish tradition of wicketkeepers, put on 24 with DeFreitas and 25 with Small. It was demonstrably too little, too late, but it did give West Indies a little more to think about.

Best has seldom been convincing at this level but now, as if sensing that his chances may be limited, he upstaged his senior partner in an opening stand vivid with strokes of flair and confidence. None was more impressive than Haynes's cover-driven four off Small, none more spectacular than Best's huge straight six off Capel.

## Scoreboard

ENGLAND	
G A Gooch b Moseley	38
W Larkins c Richards b Moseley	34
A J Lamb c Dujon b Bishop	16
A J Stewart c Dujon b Walsh	11
D J Capel b Hooper	1
V R C Russell b Bishop	28
P A J DeFreitas run out	11
D C Small not out	18
E E Hooper not out	18
Extras (b 1, w 9, n 7)	28
Total (8 wickets, 48 overs)	188
A R C Fraser did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-71, 2-86, 3-102, 4-108, 5-112, 6-132, 7-156, 8-161	
BOWLING: Bishop 10-1-41-2, Walsh 10-1-25-0, Baptiste 5-0-20-0, Moseley 9-4-42-2, Hooper 10-0-31-1	
WEST INDIES	
D L Haynes c DeFreitas b Hooper	50
C A Best not out	61
R B Richardson not out	9
Extras	
Total (1 wicket, 29 overs)	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-118	
* V A Richards, C L Hooper, K L T Anderson, P J Duden, I P Bishop, C A Walsh, E A Moseley and E A E Baptiste to bat	
Umpires: D Archer and L Duncan	



Wicketkeeper turns spectator: Dujon watches Capel bowled

## Counties reject full four-day programme

By Ivo Tennant

The first-class counties yesterday jettisoned an attempt to introduce a programme of four-day county championship matches in 1991. After a long debate over two days at the spring meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board, they voted 14-4 against the proposal put forward by the TCCB's cricket committee.

It was a more vehement reaction than had been forecast. The counties voted, instead, 12-6 for the status quo, proposed by Kent and Derbyshire. The present programme of 16 three-day and six four-day matches will be continued, probably for a further three years. Minor Counties abstained on both votes.

Ossie Wheatley, the chairman of the committee, offered his resignation, but it was refused and he was re-elected until September 1991. He said he would be considering whether to continue, although it seemed unlikely last night that he would stand down.

The general view of the members was that four-day cricket was still at an experimental stage. Alan Smith, the chief executive of the TCCB, said that "the majority of members agreed that more four-day cricket would have a beneficial effect on the game and that there could be more four-day matches played at the start of the season. It is true that there is a feeling that too much cricket is played."

He said that Ted Dexter and the other members of the England committee - Wheatley, Micky Stewart, the England team manager, and Smith - were disappointed by the outcome. "Yet Ted took it philosophically and we do not intend to go away and sulk about it. The important thing now is to try to build on the success of the England side in the West Indies and I would not rule out a full programme of four-day cricket in the future," Britannia Assurance's sponsorship of the county championship would not be affected, he said.

Smith stressed that the members were keen that England sides should have longer preparation before Test matches in England. "Touring teams have two clear days and we would like to have that, too," he said. The members wanted to give financial support for training sessions and for coaching at all levels for England teams.

"They would like to continue with a team tour, such as the one to Zimbabwe and it ties in with the board's plans for sponsorship. Ted Dexter is very pleased with what he has seen on his trip to Zimbabwe," Smith said. There was little discussion about a reduction in one-day cricket, the counties having made clear at the TCCB's winter

## TCCB decisions

● The proposal of the TCCB cricket committee to implement a four-day championship rejected 14-4.

● Kent's proposal, seconded by Derbyshire, for a further period of 16 three-day and six four-day championship matches accepted 12-6.

● Contracts of the England committee to be renewed for a further year.

● Factory-stitched balls to be used in Second XI championship.

● Definition of unfit pitches should be widened.

● Over-rate fines to be paid wholly by players.

● A county gaining a home draw in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-finals can be drawn against a county from the same qualifying group.

● Convex-faced bats to be banned.

meeting their objection to any such proposal.

The board agreed to widen the definition of an unfit pitch to take into consideration "pitches which often create erratic sideways movement where the ball consistently dominates the bat". Counties would be liable to a penalty of 25 points.

Over rate fines will continue in county cricket, except that in future they will be paid wholly by the players. Up to now half any fine has been paid by the county. The required rate will be reduced from 18.25 overs to 18 overs per hour as a result of a request from the Cricketers' Association.

Factory-stitched balls are to be used in the second XI championship this season in the hope that they will prove to be more consistent than hand-stitched balls. The TCCB feels that there would not be any discrepancy between different factory-stitched balls.

The Benson and Hedges Cup regulations have been amended. A county gaining a home match in the quarter-finals will be able, in future, to have a free draw. Until now they could not have been drawn against another county from the same qualifying group.

As expected, convex-faced bats, such as the one designed by Chris Cowdrey and a Kent firm, have been banned from first-class cricket. There remains, though, nothing in the laws of the game to prevent a batsman from turning the bat around.

● Alan Wells has been voted the Sussex player of the year after his return home from the unofficial tour to South Africa. In 1989, the 28-year-old batsman enjoyed his best season, scoring 1,629 championship runs at an average of 52.54.

## Visiting batsmen confound the pundits

Georgetown  
It has taken me nine years, give or take an odd few days, to effect entrance to the Bourda ground here. On England's tour of 1981 this part of the world became famous very quickly for political action rather more than cricketing action, thanks entirely to the arrival of Robin Jackman and his subsequent and almost immediate expulsion.



David Gower

The former England captain comments on the one-day international in Guyana.

already spent a week or so largely sheltering from persistent rain. We trained indoors at a sports hall remarkable especially for a very high ratio

of mosquitoes per cubic foot, most of which, as I remember, homed in on John Embury, while the rest of us tried to avoid being tackled too hard by Ian Botham in the five-a-side football. We did also manage a couple of sessions of outdoor practice, once on a real cricket pitch, once on the tarmac of a school playground, and took the trouble to turn up for the one-day international at Berbice.

To do so needed the assistance of the army and a couple of large industrial-sized military helicopters to obviate any need to negotiate whatever roads might have led to Berbice. Sadly the effort was largely wasted from our point of view, as our innings subsided against the treacherous off spin bowling of Larry Gomes. The only good news of the day came when we arrived back in the evening to be told we were leaving the next day.

The pitch here has the reputation of being the most amiable in the Caribbean, despite having been dug up about three years ago in an attempt to encourage more life into it. Nothing much seems to have changed, with Bishop and his fast bowling mates still waiting for a wicket with some genuine fire, and another off spinner, this time Hooper, bowling a tidy 10 overs for only 30 runs.

The simple conclusion is that once again it is impossible to predict the course of any of these one-day lotteries. All I can tell you is that my local "expert" in the Georgetown Cricket Club pavilion was a little off the mark in his assertions that over 500 runs would be scored on the day. And, by the way, apologies to anyone who had hoped to listen to us on Radio 3 - it seems that the local boys had purloined all the relevant circuits.

## Scots play same hand for a grand slam

By David Hands  
Rugby Correspondent

The Scottish selectors yesterday named the team that beat Ireland, France and Wales for the grand slam encounter with England at Murrayfield on March 17. It is rare, indeed, for a country to go unchanged through their five nations' championship programme. Not even in 1984, when they last won the grand slam, did Scotland manage an unchanged team since various injuries intervened.

But it is a testimony to the fitness and preparation of the Scottish players that they have come through unscathed to meet an England team which, though similarly unbeaten, has felt obliged to tinker with the content twice. It is also a

gesture of confidence by the Scottish selectors, that they believe the team which started the job can also finish it. There was seldom any doubt that the back division would remain intact; any criticism of young Tony Stanger, on the right wing, for being lured inside when Wales scored their try at Cardiff last weekend must be tempered by the fact that the Welsh approach work had, for once, been so good that if he had not done so, Alan Bateman would probably have scored rather than Arthur Emyr.

The Scottish pack dominated in the set pieces in what was, for them, an unusual experience. While they are used to rampaging around in the loose with great success,

the forwards do not always enjoy such superiority at scrum and lineout, and England will present them with an entirely different set of problems: there was talk immediately after the Welsh match of Iain Milne and Derek Turnbull being restored to the pack, but it was hard to see the selectors departing from the men who have brought Scotland to this pitch of success.

They include Finlay Calder, whose last home international this will be. Calder, captain of Scotland and the British Isles last year, has already announced his intention of retiring from international rugby after this summer, so there will be a special welcome at Murrayfield when he collects his 26th cap.

Any chance that Iain Milne might replace Paul Burnell as tight-head prop, disappeared when he told Bob Munro, the chairman of selectors, that he was having treatment on his damaged knee, although he intends to play for Heriot's on Saturday in an important league game against Gala.

"The physiotherapist told him that if he received a further knock on Saturday then he could be out for weeks. That and the fact that he has not played an international for 14 months put doubts in our minds," Munro said.

Munro, who presided over his last meeting on Tuesday night after 10 years as a selector, added: "As we have always known Iain is both fair and honest. We are fortunate

to have two tight heads of this quality. We think that Burnell has many pluses and he is our number one choice."

Munro conceded that Scotland's performance against Wales was not without imperfections: "We have all looked at the video of the match. There are some obvious problems to be rectified but these will be looked at on the training field."

SCOTLAND: A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish), A G Hastings (London Scottish).

## Confusion reigns over drugs pair

By John Goodbody

Confusion reigned in the se date world of women's bowls yesterday as two unnamed Welsh competitors remained banned from competing in a national indoor championship later this month because they had taken banned drugs as medication.

Officials of the Welsh Ladies' Indoor Bowling Association were still seeking advice over the competitors, one of whom had declared she had been prescribed beta-blockers by a doctor, while the other was taking a steroid.

However, it was not clear yesterday whether it was an anabolic steroid, which can be used to help an underweight individual add muscle, or a steroid used to treat a skin condition.

Officials of the governing body have received abusive phone calls as a result of the ban imposed on the competitors, who are both aged over 50, from their squad for the British Isles finals and ladies' international competition at Margate later this month.

The governing body asked all representative Welsh competitors, prior to selection, whether they were taking any drugs on the Sports Council list, which usually follows that of the International Olympic Committee.

However, the Sports Council only prohibits those drugs in a particular sport which are also on the proscribed list of the relevant international federation. Beta-blockers, however, are banned by the national Bowling Board, although they are not by other governing bodies.

## SPORT IN BRIEF

### Roche at the front

St Etienne (AFP) - Stephen Roche, of Ireland, the former world cycling champion, took the overall lead in the Paris-Nice "Race to the Sun" after his Belgian team, Hyster, won the fourth stage time-trial yesterday.

Roche, runner-up in the race last year, helped Hyster win the 44.5km trial by 33 seconds from Castorama, the team of Laurent Fignon, the world No. 1. Roche is now 31 seconds ahead of Fignon in the individual standings.

### Dunlop dies

Albert Dunlop, one of Everton's leading post-war goalkeepers, has died at the age of 57. He made nearly 250 senior appearances, including 211 in the League, and also played Minor Counties cricket for Cheshire.

### Tigers denied

Kingston's important Carlsberg League basketball fixture against Bracknell Tigers was postponed last night because the court at Tolworth had already been booked by five-a-side football players. The match has been rearranged for April 3.

### Iro's illness

Kevin Iro, the New Zealand centre, was yesterday sent home with a stomach illness as Wigan, the rugby league Challenge Cup holders, prepared for their semi-final against St Helens on Saturday.

### Flood date

The Welsh Rugby Union has organized a fixture between a President's XV and a North Wales XV to aid the Tynon flood appeal. The match will be played on Sunday, April 29, in North Wales, at a venue yet to be announced.

### Smoke signs

British speedway, with a new season less than a fortnight away, yesterday celebrated the biggest sponsorship deal in the sport's history. Coal Products, the largest manufacturer of solid smokeless fuels in the country, are to inject £250,000 into the sport in a two-year deal.

### Two elements

The TSB British Orienteering championships will be held in the Sheffield and Barnsley areas from March 24 to 25. The competition will consist of two elements - individual and team.

### Curran joins

Paul Curran, the 1986 Commonwealth champion, who won the British circuit race title in his first professional season last year, is to join the Crown-Charles team.



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